



## Jordanian doctors to attend MENA summit despite JMA ban - Batayneh

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Health Minister Aref Batayneh said Wednesday that despite a ban by Jordanian Medical Association (JMA) against its members participating in the Middle East and North Africa economic summit (MENA) Jordanian doctors will attend the meeting.

Speaking in a television programme "New Day," the minister said he had received telephone calls from Jordanian physicians expressing desire to attend the conference to reflect Jordan's medical achievements to the world.

An 11-member committee formed by the government last month to represent the Jordanian medical community at the MENA meeting had received a letter from the JMA instructing them not to attend the conference as that would violate the association's rules.

Committee member Sa'eb Hammoudi said that his committee members had no alternative but to abide by the JMA rules and so they decided not to take part in the event.

But he told the Jordan Times on Wednesday that he was not aware of any doctors who would take part in the conference in their personal capacity.

Along with the other Jordanian professional associations, the JMA has voted against normalisation with Israel and against professional contacts with Israelis, added Dr. Hammoudi.

Dr. Batayneh said on television that he would see it that Jordanian doctors would attend the conference despite the JMA ban. Expressing his view that the JMA should not restrict the doctors' participation in the conference and must remain as instructions and not an amendment to the Constitution.

## Expellee crisis on border stifles Egypt-Libya trade

SALLOUM (AFP) — Tripoli's expulsion of Palestinians has brought trade across the once active Libyan-Egyptian border to a standstill, with Libyan authorities impounding goods crossing into Egypt.

The Salloum border post, where thousands usually pass daily taking goods in and out of Libya, was so empty that customs officials spent Tuesday playing football.

"What else do we have to do? There's no one crossing," one official told AFP.

"All travellers coming from Libya have arrived here without goods and have only been allowed to cross with one cardboard box each," Ibrahim Abbas, the head border officer at Salloum, said.

"The passengers... tell us that customs at Libya's Misrak post took their merchandise from them," Mr. Abbas said.

The border crossing has been a vital trade outlet for Libya, under a United Nations air embargo since 1992 for its alleged support for terrorism.

On Monday only five cars and one bus of Egyptians arrived in Salloum and only nine cars, four of them Libyan, waited to cross, as traders stayed away from the troubled border, a Salloum official said.

Ibrahim Mohammad Ibra-

him, an Egyptian who arrived from Libya, said: "The behaviour of Libyan customs officials changed in early October when the problem of the expelled Palestinians being trapped on the border began."

"They took all my merchandise before I could cross, a total value of 30 thousand Egyptian pounds (\$9,00)," he said.

Since early October, 900 deportees have been trapped in no man's land between Salloum and Misrak because Egypt refused them entry after Tripoli stepped up a campaign to expel the 30,000 Palestinians living on its soil.

Ismail Al Sayed Osman, an Egyptian trader, said Libyan officials told him as they took his goods: "This is what you get for not letting the Palestinians through."

Egypt has refused to let the 900 enter unless assured they will continue directly to the Gaza Strip or Jordan. The stranded have closed the road across the border several times, in protest after Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi called on Egypt on Wednesday to let the Palestinians pass to "go home to Palestine."

Mr. Ibrahim said the Misrak officials gave him a receipt for his goods, telling him he would have to go back to Benghazi, 500 kilometres west of the border, to get them back.

Mohammad Ibrahim Suleiman, a Cairene who has traded across the border for two years, said: "I decided to return to Egypt and not to continue my latest trip to Libya after I learned about the impoundings."

He said he would not "risk buying goods again until the Palestinian problem is solved" at the border.

He said money changing companies in Benghazi and Libya and Marsa Matruh in Egypt have begun doing direct cash transfers between them to help traders afraid of having their money taken by Libyan border officials.

"I had 3,000 Libyan dinars (approximately \$800) taken from me at the border on my last trip," Mr. Suleiman said.

Another merchant, Sayed Mohammad Saleh, said his bus waited 15 hours at Misrak to cross. "Then the customers officials took away all the merchandise on the bus."

Mr. Saleh said traffic officials at checkpoints in Benghazi "also harassed us, demanding bribes to not hold up the buses."

Egyptian exports to Libya in 1994 amounted to \$44.2 million, while imports from Libya equalled \$47.8 million. Libya is Egypt's third largest Arab trading partner, after Saudi Arabia and Syria.

## Television comes to life to family of freed teenager

DHEISHE (AFP) — Shadi Maali, a young Palestinian prisoner, brought the television screen to life when he walked in to surprise his family in this West Bank refugee camp.

His parents, nine brothers and three sisters had no idea the 19-year-old would be among the 900 prisoners freed by Israel on Tuesday because he belongs to a group opposed to the peace process.

Just moments before he walked through the door his family was huddled around the television watching news of the releases and the Israeli army's withdrawal from a village near Nablus that set in motion the West Bank automo-

tic accord of Sept. 28.

They could not believe their eyes and his mother almost fainted with delight to have her son back after 16 months in prison.

A member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), which rejects the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)'s autonomy deals with Israel, he was serving a three-year term for hurling a petrol-bomb at an Israeli army patrol.

"It's the best thing that has ever happened to me," said the mother, Suad, with tears in her eyes. She would not let go of her returning son's hand.

"I was supposed to visit him in jail. I was very pessi-

istic about his prospects for release because he belongs to the opposition.

"Also, I thought the prisoners to be freed were to be taken to Gaza and Jericho, the areas which gained self-rule already in May 1994, the 38-year-old mother explained.

Shadi said he was only given a few hours notice before his release from Hebron prison.

"I feel I'm in a dream. I can't believe my eyes," said his father Issa, 40, who works at a petrol station in Israel, when the Palestinian territories are not sealed off.

The father telephoned relatives and friends, and with-

in minutes dozens of well-wishers flooded the house-hold near the town of Bethlehem.

"I was happy only once in jail, when I saw on television the residents of my camp tearing down the wire fence after the autonomy deal was signed in Washington," said Shadi.

"But, unfortunately, the Israeli army has put the fence back up and the camp has turned into a big prison again," he said.

Shadi said the initial phase of prisoner releases, out of a total of 6,000 whom Israel holds, was not enough. "Victory will only come the day when all Palestinian prisoners are free again," he said.

The father telephoned relatives and friends, and with-

## '97 offers answers to most questions on rules, procedures

By Rana Husseini

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Public Security Department (PSD) on Wednesday announced a new automated telephone service that will minimise procedures and ease pressure on police and public service departments.

Citizens and visitors can call "97" for information in Arabic or English from an answering system or by fax. Colonel Jamal Momani, director of the public relations department at the PSD, told a press conference.

"We have established this new service to ease the procedures for citizens seeking information as well as employees in those departments," he said.

The service will cover the following: information on travelling conditions and residence permits for West Bankers and Gazans, bridges across the River Jordan, procedures for obtaining and renewing driving and vehicle licences.

The service also provides information on licensing

weapon, school trips, pilgrimage, driving with foreign licences, car rentals, car dealers, parking areas etc.

The service also includes general information on traffic violations, accidents, complaints, statistical information, road conditions, certificate of good conduct, certificate of no criminal record, military conscription, termination of services, foreign affairs, and first-time residence permits.

According to Col. Momani pamphlets on the new service will be available at public and governmental departments.

Col. Momani said that the PSD had also started a new approach to minimise casualties from festive firings.

He said that the department would send congratulations cards for families planning weddings. These cards includes advice against the use of live ammunition, loud speakers, and unorganised processions at weddings. It will also offer advice on choosing the right place to erect a tent and how to cooperate with the authorities.

## ICRC hopes to unveil conditions at Khiam prison

BEIRUT (AFP) — International aid workers are hoping that unprecedented access to one of the Middle East's most notorious jails will shed light on what has been happening behind closed doors.

"We will finally be able to do our work," said Robin Wavre, from the Middle East office of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) at its Geneva headquarters.

Mr. Wavre said the ICRC got its first glimpse of the inside of the Israeli-controlled Khiam prison in the South Lebanon "security zone" on Monday and announced it was determined to uncover conditions there.

The six-member team who entered the prison — where torture is said to be practised — included a doctor. They have already started to investigate "the treatment, material and psychological conditions" of detainees.

About 250 prisoners, mostly Lebanese, are held without trial, some for more than 10 years, in the jail run by Israel's proxy militia in Lebanon, the South Lebanon Army (SLA).

Most of the detainees are anti-Israeli fighters or people suspected by the SLA and Israeli intelligence services of anti-Israeli activity. They also include women.

"We were willing to allow visits a long time ago on condition that the 20 SLA prisoners held by the (Iranian-backed) Hezbollah also be allowed visits," said an SLA spokesman who declined to be named.

He said the SLA was now

receiving news about the fate of its men held by the Hezbollah group, which spearheads resistance to Israel's occupation of the border strip in southern Lebanon.

Humanitarian organisations have repeatedly denounced conditions in Khiam and compiled witness statements complaining that torture was being used during interrogations and that Israeli officers were carrying out questions.

According to a detainees' support committee, three prisoners have died in Khiam since December.

Experts believe the ICRC team was finally allowed into Khiam, a former Lebanese army barracks, after the SLA bowed to pressure from humanitarian organisations.

The SLA had already relaxed its grip in January when it permitted relatives to visit prisoners for the first time in three years.

Mr. Wavre stressed the ICRC will be able to talk to detainees in private in the place of their choice.

On Monday they held a five-hour working session which will be followed by others.

"There are no time limits. We will work as long as it takes and the SLA has agreed to this and we will repeat the visit as long as we deem it necessary," Mr. Wavre said.

At the end of its investigation the ICRC will file a confidential report containing its findings and recommendations and submit it to the "authorities," the group said without specifying to whom it would be sent.

## Russia tries diplomacy to free Afghan-held crew

MOSCOW (R) — Russia said on Tuesday it would exhaust all diplomatic means to free an air crew held by Afghan rebels, but that it could be forced to use "other measures" if those failed.

Responding to local media

accusations that Moscow had abandoned seven Russian airmen who have been held by the Afghan Taliban militia for more than two months, the Foreign Ministry said it was working hard to do the case.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Well-armed drug gang smashed in UAE

DUBAI (AFP) — Police smashed an international drug gang in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), arresting nine people and seizing 37 kilogrammes (81 pounds) of hashish and one kilogramme of heroin, a newspaper said Wednesday. The gang members, including a veiled woman, had been jailed previously for fraud, drug dealing or theft and had been armed with Kalashnikov rifles. Major Matar Al Muhairy, Abu Dhabi's anti-drugs chief, told the Gulf News daily. The suspects, who included UAE nationals as well as citizens from other unnamed countries, also used mobile phones to communicate with each other and producers abroad, he added. "They would use various ports on the UAE coasts to smuggle the drugs into the country, store them in one emirate, then distribute them in another," he said.

### Princess Anne to visit Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Britain's Princess Anne will visit Kuwait on Nov. 15 for the second time since the emirate was freed from Iraqi occupation in 1991, the official KUNA news agency said. The emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, visited London in May. British forces took over in the U.S.-led military coalition that freed Kuwait from seven months of Iraqi occupation in February 1991.

### Israel allows return of 3 Fateh chiefs

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The Israeli government has allowed the return to the Palestinian territories of three leading activists of the Fateh faction. Israel Radio announced Wednesday. Abu Firas Littawi and Mahmoud Al Alul arrived on Tuesday and Izzedin Al Sharif was to follow Wednesday. The radio said all three had been involved in anti-Israeli attacks. They could be appointed governors of the towns of Tulkarem, Ramallah and Nablus, which Israeli troops are to be evacuated under the West Bank autonomy accord signed on Sept. 25, it said.

### Quake shakes Aegean coastal city of Izmir

IZMIR (AP) — A moderate quake shook this coastal city early Wednesday morning but did not cause any damage or injuries. The quake had a preliminary magnitude of four, and its epicentre is about 90 kilometres west of Izmir. Kandilli observatory in Istanbul said. Quakes have been shaking western Turkey for the last two months. A strong quake of magnitude six killed 90 people in Dinar, some 350 kilometres east of Izmir, 10 days ago. Turkey's coastal and eastern regions lie atop an earthquake prone belt, known as the Anatolian fault.

### U.S. company to conduct study for Aqaba airport

AMMAN (AP) — Jordan has awarded the U.S. company Lockheed Martin a \$500,000 agreement to provide a feasibility study for expanding an airport in the Gulf of Aqaba to serve both the Kingdom and Israel, an official said Wednesday. Mahmoud Taha, an engineer at the Civil Aviation Authority, said the Virginia-based company will submit the study to the governments of Jordan and Israel in six months. The Washington-based Trade and Development Agency has agreed to finance the study. "Under the agreement, the study will cover runways, airport buildings, equipment and other facilities that will be available at the airport," Mr. Taha said.

### Israeli troops blow up Lebanese house

MARJAYOUN (AP) — Israeli forces punched out of their self-designed "security zone" in South Lebanon Wednesday, blew up a house and killed a guerrilla, security sources said. They said two other guerrillas and an Israeli soldier were wounded in the clash, which followed the blast some 25 metres outside the central sector of the occupied enclave. The Israeli army confirmed the clash and the casualties but made no mention of dynamiting the deserted two-floor building near the village of Kfar Tibbin which guerrillas allegedly used to attack Israeli targets. An Israeli spokesman said the wounded Israeli soldier was evacuated by helicopter to Israel. Israeli radio said he had sustained head wounds.

### Headless sphinx, torso found in sea

CAIRO (AP) — A headless sphinx, a pharaoh's torso and part of an obelisk are the latest Egyptian treasures pulled from their murky grave in the Mediterranean by a French-Egyptian team. The divers are capping a three-month project of mapping an area of the sea off the Mediterranean port of Alexandria by removing about 30 statues and monuments scattered amid the ruins of the Pharaonic Lighthouse, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Last week, divers pulled out the 2,000-year-old red-granite torso of a Greek goddess. The divers tied a parachute to the statue and inflated it, bringing it to the surface. A tugboat then pulled the statue to shore and a crane lifted it from the water. But since then, strong winds and high seas have slowed the removal of other pieces. On Tuesday, a break in the weather allowed the team to remove the sphinx, obelisk and pharaoh's torso.

### Bedouin 'spy' for Israel held in Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — An Egyptian bedouin suspected of spying for Israel has been imprisoned since 1993 for questioning by authorities, legal sources said Wednesday, when his detention was ordered extended. Amer Salman, the owner of a farm in Rafah in the northern Sinai peninsula, was originally arrested for "giving the Israeli army information on Egyptian troop movement in the Sinai," the sources said. Since then, his internment has been renewed every 45 days without his case coming to trial. The public prosecutor ordered on Wednesday another 45-day extension, saying interrogations were not complete, the sources said.

### HIZB RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman ... 8:00 a.m. every Monday  
Arr. Damascus ... 5:00 p.m. every Monday  
Arr. Damascus (TK) ... 7:30 a.m. every Monday  
Arr. Amman ... 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

### DEPARTURES

#### Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

03:25 Singapore. Kuala Lumpur (RJ)  
04:30 ... Aden (RJ)  
07:15 ... Suwa (RJ)  
08:45 ... New Delhi (RJ)  
09:45 ... Dhaka, Ryad (RJ)  
10:45 ... Cairo (RJ)  
11:45 ... Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)  
09:35 ... Muscat, Dubai (RJ)  
10:30 ... Colombo (RJ)  
11:45 ... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
12:45 ... London (RJ)  
13:45 ... Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)  
14:45 ... Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)<

## BRIEF

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By Rana Husseini  
Special to the Jordan Times

## Princess Sarvath discusses YWMA interests with Far East and British concerns

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath, president of the Young Women's Muslim Association (YWMA) Wednesday evening received at the Royal Palace the director of the Far East commercial office Edmund Liu, as a follow up to an earlier visit to Jordan by President Lee Teng-Hui and Mrs. Lee, a Royal Court statement said.

The Princess discussed with Mr. Liu areas of cooperation between the YWMA and the Republic of Taiwan, with regard to youth projects, projects for the handicapped and technical cooperation, in addition to the possibility of obtaining machinery and equipment from Taiwan for the YWMA sheltered workshop, the statement said.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Hani Mulki, president of the Royal Scientific Society and a representative of the YWMA's association executive board.

Also Wednesday evening, Princess Sarvath received at the Royal Court British Ambassador to Jordan Peter Hinchcliffe, Mrs. Archie Hinchcliffe, Dr. Anne Coles, a senior social development adviser who is heading the British Overseas Development Department delegation currently

visiting Jordan. Mr. Fred Scutt, head of the Jordan desk, Mr. Malcolm Smart, senior economist and Mr. Bill Baker, an institutional adviser, said the statement.

Princess Sarvath discussed areas of cooperation between the British department, the YWMA's different projects (the YWMA centre for special education, the YWMA sheltered workshop and the Princess Sarvath Community College) and the Amman Baccalaureate School.

The meeting was attended by the board of trustees, members of the various institutions and heads of various projects.

## Police arrest telephone fraud gang

By Rana Husseini  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Police Wednesday announced the arrest of five people, including a Lebanese, who were allegedly involved in defrauding three people of JD 250,000 worth of international telephone calls, according to Colonel Jamal Momani, director of the Public Relations Department at the Public Security Department (PSD).

Colonel Momani told reporters at a press conference that three people have come forward with complaints about individuals who rented out their furnished apartments for one month and then vacated the premises without paying their telephone bills, which he said, were exorbitant.

"In the past three months we had three people complaining that they had rented out their apartments for one month and had received telephone bills of JD 44,000, JD 62,000 and JD 99,000," Col. Momani said.

Police said the gang leader would install a telephone exchange apparatus in the rented apartments and connect calls from clients in Lebanon to anywhere in the world for a fee. He used the members of the gang to accept and connect the calls, paying them \$230 per month.

Police said the gang leader, whom they identified as Michel, started his illegal activities in 1976.

According to the official, police retrieved a telephone exchanger, telephone cables and cash when they apprehended the five suspects.

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## Jordan to involve women, children in reducing natural disaster effects

By Rana Husseini  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — This year's "International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction" will be marked with a lecture, the theme of which is "Women and Children — Key to Prevention," to be held Thursday in Jordan and worldwide.

The theme will focus on women and children, as positive forces in the reduction of the disastrous effects of natural disasters on their communities.

Participants on Thursday will discuss five papers on steps to combat and reduce natural disaster effects.

Overall, the mounting numbers of disasters worldwide caused an estimate loss of about \$65 million, the statement said.

In addition to floods being provoked by heavy rain, the statement said that floods usually result from man-made activities, such as deforestation, mountain slope erosion because of excessive farming practices and other human activities which harden the soil, reduce water retention and thus can provoke floods and landslides.

The statement emphasised that women's groups and schools are important grass-roots force to undertake exercises that could help reduce the effects of natural disasters, such as earthquakes, hurricanes and floods.

The Ministry of Information will present a paper on the role of media on this subject, and the ministry of education will discuss how to apply first-aid in case a community is faced with such a disaster.

Yearly, dozens of people perish in natural disasters in Jordan.

## Cooperation in perfect harmony brings EC chamber orchestra to Amman

By Jean-Claude Elias  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Cultural cooperation is not the least of the European Union's exponents. Among the symbols that contribute to strengthening its unity is the European Community Chamber orchestra (ECCO).

The ensemble will perform this Friday at the Prince Hassan Auditorium, University of Jordan, and will hold a workshop for students at the National Music Conservatory (Noor Al Hussein Foundation) on Saturday. ECCO's current tour is taking them to Syria, Egypt, Israel and Jordan.

The orchestra, whose patron is Spain's Queen Sofia, gave its first concert in 1981. ECCO members are usually European, talented young musicians, selected among top prize winners and virtuosos. The ensemble also supports well known soloists. Violinist Tasmin Little, horn player Michael Thompson and flautist Giulio Gianelli Viscardi have all appeared with ECCO in festivals and concerts.

"Europe in complete harmony," "perfectly shaped string tone," "ECCO sparkles" are but some of what the papers have said about them.

The ECCO tour in Jordan is organised by the Delegation of the European Commission along with EU member states embassies and cultural centres. All proceeds from the performance will be donated to charity.

The participants are expected to formulate a list of recommendations to be adopted in the future.

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## Jordanian nursing conference looks at present and future of profession

AMMAN (Petra) — Delegates from Jordan, three other Arab countries and seven American and European nations Wednesday gathered at the University of Jordan for the opening of the university's Second Jordanian Nursing Conference.

At the opening session, which was attended by Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Faisal, deputising for Her Majesty Queen Noor, conference rapporteur Sawsan Majali outlined the objectives of the two-day meeting, organised by the university in cooperation with the Jordanian Nursing Association and the Royal Medical Services.

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Princess Alia Faisal, de

## Major's Party pushes for huge trans-Atlantic free trade zone

BLACKPOOL, England (AP) — Britain will push for the creation of a huge trans-Atlantic free trade area stretching from Germany to the American west coast, Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind said Tuesday.

"Atlantic free trade will be a major objective of this government and our party," Mr. Rifkind told the annual conference of the governing Conservative Party.

It was the first of a series of policy initiatives that cabinet ministers are due to announce in this northwest English resort.

Prime Minister John Major hopes the four-day conference, under the slogan *Our Nation's Future — Conservative*, will revive his government's fortunes.

The Conservatives are at record levels of unpopularity, divided over relations with continental Europe, and widely regarded by voters as out of ideas and listless after 16 years in power.

The meeting came a week after the burgeoning opposition Labour Party endorsed a sharp shift to the centre.

Mr. Rifkind envisaged an expanded free trade area

encompassing the 15-nation European Union and the North Atlantic Free Trade Association of the United States, Canada and Mexico.

On Europe, Mr. Rifkind struck a robust tone aimed at the strong anti-European streak among party activists.

He said a Labour government would accept each move toward further integration of the European Union, while Mr. Major's government will scrutinise every proposal.

"We will do so by a cool assessment of where the balance of British interest is to be found," said Mr. Rifkind.

"Either Britain will have a government that is prepared to be unpopular and occasionally isolated in defence of British interests, or it will have a government that will give in when the going gets tough."

To the dismay of the party's liberal pro-European wing, defence Secretary Michael Portillo also emphasised British resistance to ceding powers to the European Union Headquarters in the Belgian capital, Brussels.

"We must not allow Brussels to control our defence policy," said Mr. Portillo.

"It would be absurd, as some of our partners are urging, to try to merge our defence cooperation into the European Community."

"Britain is blessed with very brave soldiers, sailors and airmen, willing to give their lives for Britain, not for Brussels," Mr. Portillo, who received a lengthy ovation, said.

His nationalist message was music to the ears of those Conservatives whose focus for what they saw as Mr. Major's conciliatory stance towards Europe led them to back an abortive challenge to his leadership in July.

Former Finance Minister Norman Lamont, once Mr. Major's friend but a foe since he was sacked in May 1993, said the tide had turned decisively against those in the party who favoured closer European links culminating in a single currency.

"They are vanishing as fast as the snow with the coming spring," Mr. Lamont told a meeting on Tuesday.

the conference fringe.

But some moderate Conservatives despaired at the anti-European tone and were looking to Mr. Major's deputy, pro-European Michael Heseltine, to redress the balance when he addresses the conference.

Peter Temple-Morris, a prominent member of the centre-left of the party, accused Mr. Portillo of "ignoring the realities". He said defence cooperation was a matter of inter-governmental collaboration and not for the European Union to dictate.

"It has nothing to do with Brussels. Brussels does not pretend it controls our defence policy," he said.

Labour's Tony Blair, whose party enjoys an opinion poll lead of about 30 percentage points over the Conservatives, blasted the Conservatives for pandering to anti-European sentiment.

"Nothing showed that more clearly than Mr. Portillo's extreme, juvenile and ill-informed anti-European trade, which showed a complete ignorance of Britain's defence history and defence needs," the Labour leader said.



British Prime Minister John Major (left) applauds Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind on his speech to the Conservative Party conference in Blackpool (AFP photo)

## Yeltsin renews criticism of Kozyrev

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin has renewed his attack on Russia's Foreign Ministry, a top aide said, again raising a cloud over the political future of Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev.

The 44-year-old Kozyrev, foreign minister for five years, has been under fire from Mr. Yeltsin and parliament over policy in the Balkans crisis where Russia's voice has often been ignored by the United States and other Western powers.

Chief presidential aide Viktor Ilyushin told ITAR-TASS news agency that the ministry came in for harsh criticism at a Kremlin meeting Tuesday between Mr. Yeltsin and his aides.

Mr. Ilyushin said several ministries and government departments had been under fire at the meeting for "serious shortcomings in executive discipline."

"Great disquiet was expressed in an exchange of opinions about the activity of the Russian Foreign Ministry," he added.

Asked if this could herald changes in the ministry, Mr. Ilyushin added: "The president is not in the habit of acting blindly in personnel matters."

Mr. Yeltsin last month said he was not satisfied with the way the Foreign Ministry drafted Russia's policy on former Yugoslavia and said "consequences would be drawn" unless the ministry improved.

The State Duma (lower chamber) has accused Mr. Kozyrev of discrediting the president and the country by ineffective performance and called for him to be sacked.

Mr. Kozyrev, while rejecting charges of not pursuing

a robust policy, has replied in the past by saying that Russia's effectiveness on the diplomatic stage has been adversely affected by the economic climate.

He says the miserable pay levels of diplomats in Russia has meant that many experienced diplomats have quit to pursue new careers in banking or in private companies. The average wage for a Foreign Ministry employee is less than \$100 a month.

Despite his criticism, Mr. Yeltsin has not shown any sign of wishing to move against his foreign minister now. Diplomats say the Kremlin chief — to whom Mr. Kozyrev is directly responsible — is in any case unlikely to make such a key change just now two months before a parliamentary election.

## Italy hunts for stolen art treasures

ROME — Italy launched a campaign to recover stolen art treasures when it published a catalogue of about 1,500 works, some masterpieces, which went missing during World War II. The works, many of which ended up in Nazi hands but whose current owners are unknown, include Roman statues, Renaissance paintings by Botticelli and Tintoretto and a marble faun's head ascribed to Michelangelo. Culture Minister Antonio Paolucci said the list had been drawn up 25 years ago but had remained unpublished for political reasons.

## Video dominates British film market

LONDON — Video sales and rentals dominate Britain's £1.8 billion (\$2.8 billion) film market, a report said. Cinemas accounted for only 17 per cent of consumer spending on films despite a rise in attendances. But 35 per cent went to video sales and 29 per cent to rentals, the Policy Studies Institute said in its cultural trends report. Movie subscription channels on satellite and cable took up the remaining 19 per cent. Most of those going to the movies were between 18 and 24, the report found. Eight per cent go two to three times a month.

## Ingmar Bergman to get award

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — Sweden's director-producer Ingmar Bergman will be awarded the \$200,000 Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize in New York. The Swedish News Agency (TT) said. Bergman, who has made over 40 movies during his career spanning cinema, theatre and opera, will be the second recipient of the award, set up by film star Lillian Gish in her will. She died in 1993 at the age of 94. According to her wishes, the prize, awarded last year to American architect Frank Gehry, is to be given to an artist who has contributed to beauty in the world and to humanity's amusement and understanding of life. Bergman's daughter with Norwegian actress Liv Ullmann, Linn Ullmann, will accept the award on his behalf.

## 439 kg pumpkin wins top prize

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A pumpkin weighing in at a whopping 968 pounds (439 kilograms) has won the International Pumpkin Association's annual contest. Paula Zehr of New York state, earned the title for the second year in a row. She will receive \$3,000 and a trip to Japan's pumpkin festival next year. The association had hundreds of entries from Russia, Japan, Nova Scotia, England and the United States. Her huge squash will be displayed at the great pumpkin festival in San Francisco later this month.

## Judge decides against probe of Juppe in housing scandal

PARIS (AP) — An investigating judge has decided against launching a formal probe against French Prime Minister Alain Juppe in a housing scandal, a newspaper reported Wednesday.

Prosecutor Bruno Cotte was expected to tell justice officials that Mr. Juppe had a "personal interest" in the affair, in which he and his son obtained low-rent city-owned apartments, *Le Monde* reported.

The newspaper said Mr. Cotte decided to "close the investigation, but with a form of severe judiciary admonishment" as opposed to launching a formal probe.

A formal investigation could have led to Mr. Juppe's resignation four months after the Conservative premier took office. Juppe had been severely weakened by the scandal as well as a fall in the polls and a face-off with labour unions over his plan to freeze public sector salaries next year.

Financial markets had reeled in recent weeks because of the uncertainty, with stocks on the bourse slipping and the Franc losing ground against major currencies.

Despite a strike Tuesday by more than 5 million public sector employees, Mr. Juppe has held firm on the pay freeze to cut a massive

deficit. But his aides offered to talk with the unions.

Mr. Juppe last week said he and his family would move out of their city-owned apartments, the subject of a preliminary judicial investigation into whether Mr. Juppe abused power to lower the rent or pay for renovations.

Newspapers reported last week that when Mr. Juppe was assistant Paris mayor in charge of finances from 1989-1993, he had the authority to sign documents for Jacques Chirac, then mayor of Paris and now French president, which gave Mr. Juppe power over housing issues.

The conservative premier has been accused by a Paris taxpayers' association of cutting his son's rent on a city apartment and making the city pay 1 million francs (\$200,000) to renovation of his own apartment.

Rent on Laurent Juppe's 88-square-metre apartment in the fashionable Saint Germain Des Pres neighbourhood was cut from 7,000 francs (\$1,400) to 6,000 francs (\$1,200) — about 30 per cent lower than market rates.

Mr. Juppe and Mr. Chirac

previously were criticised for paying sub-market rent on their own apartments.

Meanwhile, public approval of President

## Kashmiris say 'no' to settlement with India — survey

NEW DELHI (AP) — An overwhelming majority of Muslims in Kashmir oppose a settlement to the state's separatist conflict within the framework of the Indian constitution, an opinion poll published Wednesday said.

Seventy-seven per cent of 504 respondents in the Kashmir Valley answered "definitely not" when asked if a constitutional solution to the conflict was possible, said the survey in the inaugural issue of a weekly newsmagazine.

The new magazine, *Outlook*, said it was the first such opinion poll to be conducted in the violence-torn Kashmir Valley, where more than 12,000 people have died since 1989 by official count.

Twelve per cent said a constitutional settlement could "probably" solve the Kashmir problem while seven per cent answered "probably not" only two per cent thought a constitutional settlement to the conflict was possible.

Eighty per cent of those surveyed in the towns of Srinagar, Sopore, Baramulla, Bandipora and Anantnag last month said even free and fair legislative polls in Kashmir would not help in solving the problem.

On other issues, 90 per cent said human rights abuses by Indian troops were "very high," 72 per cent favoured Kashmir's independence instead of a merger with Pakistan and 66 per cent disapproved of growing Islamic fundamentalism.

Nearly 60 per cent of respondents also disapproved of kidnappings by Muslim separatists in Kashmir while 35 per cent argued that it was a legitimate weapon. Four foreigners seized by a rebel group in July are still in captivity.

Vinod Mehra, editor of *Outlook*, told reporters that the opinion poll was nearly called off after the researchers were stalked by gunmen in Anantnag, some 50 kilometres from Srinagar.

India has said it plans to hold elections to the Kashmir legislature in a bid to end the separatist campaign. Muslim militants have vowed to sabotage the polls, saying they will only agree to the state's secession from India.

for them," he told the conference.

Mr. Soares added: "If they don't want to come after being summoned three times, then we can play rough."

Residents said scores of youths and troops were still locked in stand-offs in several parts of the capital.

"We can't go out because all the streets are blocked by the youths. The situation is tense," one resident said.

Chief Sugianto said youths took three police officers hostage, one a captain, releasing them after an unknown number of Timorese were freed from detention by the military.

Chief Sugianto told the news conference some people had been detained, including two police officers. He told the news conference those involved would be arrested if they did not turn themselves in.

Residents said the situation had eased by the afternoon, but others said gangs continued to blockade some neighbourhoods, stopping cars and blocking public or government vehicles.

Emergency Services said people suffering nausea and itchy skin were being urged to take a shower, change their clothes and go to hospital to be checked.

The wind carried fumes across the surrounding area.

Firefighters used fully encapsulated gear and breathing apparatus to tackle the blaze because the insecticide was highly toxic. They were using as little water as possible to minimise the run-off of chemicals, be added.

The blaze broke out late in the afternoon just before the home rush-hour, causing traffic chaos.

Ambulance spokesman Ian Launder told Reuters about 10 ambulances had been ferrying people to hospital.

"We've been getting phone calls from people who are feeling unwell... We are sending ambulances to their houses, checking them out, and transporting them (to hospital) if need be."

He said a number of people had been dosed down in a fire service decontamination unit at the site.

## Ramos seeks return of Filipino general

MANILA (R) — Philippine President Fidel Ramos said Wednesday he was using gentle persuasion rather than military muscle to bring back a former top army general who defected to the Communist rebels.

Mr. Ramos said he had asked defence officials and colleagues of retired army regional Commander Raymundo Jarque "to help in persuading him to not choose the life of an insurrectionist."

Gen. Jarque, facing charges of corruption and attempted murder, announced in a statement Tuesday he was joining the Marxist New People's Army (NPA) because he could not expect justice from a "corrupt" judiciary.

Mr. Ramos told his weekly news conference that he met Gen. Jarque's son, an army captain, Tuesday night and told him the government was using "combined persuasive efforts" to persuade the former general to return.

Human rights groups have linked him to military abuses, including the bombing of NPA strongholds on Negros Island in 1989, which forced 35,000 villagers to flee their homes.

Hundreds of them died in evacuation camps later.

Gen. Jarque accused a "powerful elite" of rigging the charges against him and urged soldiers to join him in overthrowing the government.

His defection shocked the government and the military.

Mr. Ramos said there was nothing he could do to help Gen. Jarque with the cases against him because they were already in the courts.

"If there is anything that we can do here, we'll be happy to do it but if they're in the courts we cannot... make decisions ourselves," he said.

Communist leaders said they were studying Gen. Jarque's decision to join them, because of his "blood debts" to the people.

The NPA has been fighting for a Marxist state for 26 years and was seen as a major security problem until the collapse of communism in Europe and internal bickerings decimated its ranks.

WOR

Researchers look on the sunny side of life

ATLANTA — Too much sun can increase the risk of skin cancer, but a few minutes of sun a day can produce enough Vitamin D to help fight other types of cancer, researchers said. "The exposure of only a small area of our body, such as face, arms or legs, to sunlight is sufficient to raise the blood levels of Vitamin D," reported a team of researchers from the Boston University Medical Center. Boston University's Dr. Michael Holick called for "intelligent use of sunlight" to help people produce Vitamin D, needed for a healthy skeleton and to fight disease.

Italy hunts for stolen art treasures

Quake

ROME — Italy launched a campaign to recover stolen art treasures when it published a catalogue of about 1,500 works, some masterpieces, which went missing during World War II. The works, many of which ended up in Nazi hands but whose current owners are unknown, include Roman statues, Renaissance paintings by Botticelli and Tintoretto and a marble faun's head ascribed to Michelangelo. Culture Minister Antonio Paolucci said the list had been drawn up 25 years ago but had remained unpublished for political reasons.

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Movie subscription channels on satellite and cable took up the remaining 19 per cent. Most of those going to the movies were between 18 and 24, the report found. Eight per cent go two to three times a month.

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## World News

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Italy hunts for  
stolen art  
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Mexican rescue workers and soldiers dig for survivors through the rubble of the Hotel Costa Real in the port of Manzanillo in the western coastal state of Colima (AFP photo)

## Quake claims at least 33 lives in Mexico

MANZANILLO, Mexico (AP) — Bernadette McCafferty ran screaming through the hall in her pajamas when the Radisson Hotel began to sway in a powerful earthquake.

"It felt like being in a boat with high waves," said the Canadian tourist from Oakville, Ontario. "But he said he held out little hope even as police dogs combed the mounds of crumbled earth.

The magnitude-7.6 quake struck Mexico's Pacific coast Monday morning, killing at least 33 people and injuring 90 as it toppled houses and hotels, cracked bridges, split highways and cut power and phone services.

In Manzanillo, a popular resort 330 miles west of Mexico City, the eight-story Costa Real Hotel was reduced to rubble. Rescuers pulled 15 bodies and 10 injured people from the ruins, but resumed their search Tuesday only after dawn because there had been no power overnight.

Vice Adm. Ambriz Ariza Lopez, a director of search operations, told the Associated Press more bodies were likely to be uncovered.

"We really don't know exactly how many people died in the hotel," Adm. Ariza Lopez said Tuesday.

As workers discovered the 15th body, that of a woman who was 8 months pregnant. Her 3-year-old was still missing.

Hotel manager Alfonso Ramirez Ochoa said 33 of the hotel's 57 guests were missing along with 17 workers. But he said he held out little hope even as police dogs combed the mounds of crumbled earth.

Rescue workers used blue-and-white surgical masks also used pickaxes and sifted through jumbled clothing, mattresses and torn sofas. Cots laid out with intravenous tubes lay nearby in the event survivors were found.

Red Cross workers and sailors from the nearby port built a temporary morgue on the lawn next to the hotel pool, laying sheet-covered corpses side by side.

Just outside Manzanillo, a building housing the state judicial police collapsed, killing a police commander and seven other people, said state spokesman Mario Cardenas.

"The injured are everywhere," said Livas De La Garza, a textile shop owner in Manzanillo.

After reporting up to 45 deaths in the neighbouring

state of Jalisco, authorities there revised their estimate late Monday, saying they had counted some victims several times and only 10 people had died.

There was no immediate way to confirm the death toll. Many people believe that the Mexican government purposely underestimated the number of people killed in a 1985 quake, which officially killed more than 6,000. Independent estimates put the death toll at more than 10,000.

The states of Jalisco and Colima, where Manzanillo is, contain some of Mexico's most popular beach resorts.

The area shook violently after the 9:37 a.m. quake (1537 GMT), which was centred three miles (five kilometres) offshore near the border between the two states — 15 miles (24 kilometres) east-southeast of Manzanillo.

"It was scary because it was so long," said Hortenzia Magana, stepping off a plane in Los Angeles. "I just touched it out. It lasted more than a minute."

Skyscrapers in Mexico City swayed violently and people bolted from homes and workplaces. Power and phone service was interrupted for about an hour. The quake was felt as far north as Dallas and Oklahoma City.

Some roads and bridges were heavily cracked or damaged, and the quake ripped fissures as wide as a foot in the main coastal highway.

Telephone service and power were cut to many areas and authorities canceled flights to Manzanillo, citing reports of damage to the runway.

Before leaving for Washington for a meeting with President Bill Clinton, President Ernesto Zedillo sent five cabinet members to assess damage and ordered military workers to coordinate an emergency response.

The quake was the second powerful tremor to hit Mexico in a month — a magnitude-7.3 quake on Sept. 14 killed five people in southern Mexico.

Most Mexican quakes occur along a long swath of coastline from the Guatemalan border to near Puerto Vallarta, where the Cocos Plate of the Earth's crust is thrusting under the North American Plate.

## Hurricane churns across Mexico's Yucatan

MEXICO CITY (R) — Hurricane Roxanne churned across Mexico's Yucatan peninsula early Wednesday, packing 100 mph (160 kmh) winds and sending tourists running for cover but quickly losing power and causing little initial damage.

Roxanne smashed into Cozumel, an upmarket island favoured by scuba divers and cruise ships, and then moved northwest onto the mainland where it uprooted palm trees and sent big waves smashing onto the white beaches of Cancun.

Telephone and electricity services to Cozumel were cut off so the extent of damage there was not immediately known.

But in Cancun, civil defence and local government officials said the hurricane had bypassed the resort and caused less damage than they had feared.

"The danger is over. There is no problem," said local

government official Antonio Jimenez, adding that many tourists were returning to their hotels from emergency shelters.

Civil defence officials said they had no information of loss of life elsewhere in the Yucatan peninsula.

Authorities said the hurricane was moving west at about 13 mph (20 kmh) but that its intensity is diminishing rapidly.

They said Roxanne would emerge from the Yucatan peninsula late Wednesday, spinning across the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico. It might then move westwards onto the Mexican mainland again or go north toward the Texas coast.

Mexico had earlier closed ports, evacuated thousands of tourists to safe buildings and hurricane shelters and suspended oil production across the Yucatan peninsula in an effort to save lives. Coastguards and weather

forecasters urged ships at sea to seek shelter at port and they came in by the dozen throughout the afternoon and early evening.

"There are now just a few out at sea. About 150 came in here today," said Luis Lizardo Contreras, a naval captain at Puerto Progreso, on the northern Yucatan coast.

The Transport Ministry ordered a close to all shipping at 25 ports in southern Mexico ahead of the hurricane's arrival and state oil monopoly Pemex shut down half the country's oil production in the Bay of Campeche as a precaution.

A Pemex spokeswoman said it evacuated all but essential safety personnel from its rigs in Campeche and had suspended all flights to and from the area until further notice.

Roxanne is the 10th hurricane to emerge this year in what ranks as one of the busiest seasons on record

for hurricane trackers.

Its path so far has been similar to that taken last week by hurricane Opal, which then turned abruptly northeast and slammed into the Florida panhandle.

Opal hit the Florida coast with 125 mph (200 kmh) winds, causing an estimated \$1.8 billion in damage and claiming 21 lives in the United States.

"Once it (Roxanne) is back over the open waters in the Gulf of Mexico we'll have a much better idea of where it will go next," Miami Hurricane Centre forecaster Brian Maher said.

The hurricane's arrival came as Mexico was still struggling to clear the debris from another natural disaster — a strong earthquake Monday which levelled buildings and killed at least 33 people in the western Pacific coast states of Jalisco and Colima.

Mr. Allen Lee was followed by 58 other councillors in the brief but solemn ceremony. One member was out of the territory.

China bitterly opposed democratic reforms enacted last year which culminated last month in the first fully elected legislature in Hong Kong's history. It has sworn to dismantle the council and replace it with one of its own design.

A more immediate challenge will be working out the new legislature's relationship with the government.

Until the last session, the council included three senior government officials and 18 appointed members who could act as the government's eyes and ears and, in the case of the officials at least, could cast crucial votes for the government.

"Can (Patten) work with this Legco now?" Martin Lee, leader of the Democratic Party, said in a radio interview earlier Wednesday.

"What will he do, what will he say as to enhancing cooperation between the government and the Legislative Council?"

439 kg pumpkin  
wins top prize

SAN FRANCISCO — A pumpkin weighing 439 kilograms has won the International Pumpkin Association's annual contest. Paula Patten, a New York state, earned first place for the second year in a row. She will represent the United States in the great pumpkin competition in San Francisco next month.

The association had

hundreds of entries from

Russia, Japan, United States, United Kingdom, and the great pumpkin

in San Francisco next month.

This photo taken from a satellite transmission shows hurricane Roxanne which is close to the Yucatan peninsula town of Cozumel, Mexico (AFP photo)

## Suu Kyi calls for stronger labour unions in Burma

MANILA, Philippines (Agencies) — Burmese dissident leader and Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi Tuesday called on her countrymen to organise independent unions to free themselves from "slavery" under her country's military rulers.

In a videotaped message to a meeting of world trade unionists in Manila, Ms. Suu Kyi accused the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), the military junta that rules Burma, of systematically using forced labour in joint venture projects with multinational corporations.

She also warned foreign investors against taking part in such joint ventures, saying the projects help set back democratisation in Burma.

"All we are saying is that investments should be made in the right way at the right time," she said. "In the long run, it will be the businessmen themselves who will be hurt by investing at the wrong time."

Telephone service and power were cut to many areas and authorities canceled flights to Manzanillo, citing reports of damage to the runway.

Conference spokesman Alexander Aguilar said the co-operation was a show of solidarity with the workers

hundreds from brutal conditions.

The London-based human rights group said the death rate in some camps, which hold about 500 prisoners used in construction projects, exceeds 50 per cent.

In one camp near the central city of Mandalay, it said, 400 prisoners died in a month's time.

"Our greatest resource, our greatest asset, is our people. We need organisations to protect the rights of our people," said Mrs. Suu Kyi.

Her message, the latest attack against the regime of Gen. Saw Maung since her release from house arrest in July, was received with loud applause on the second day of the conference organised by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.

Among the participants were trade union leaders from Japan, Denmark, Sweden, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Australia, United States and the Philippines.

Earlier, Amnesty International reported that prisoners in Burmese labour camps were dying by the

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Tin Oo, a former senior military officer who founded the party with Ms. Suu Kyi in 1988, was appointed vice-chairman as was Kyi Maung. He led the party to its May 1990 election victory, after Ms. Suu Kyi and Mr. Tin Oo were imprisoned until he was released.

The NLD was formed in September 1988, days after the military crushed a democracy uprising and set up the ruling SLORC. Less than a year later, Ms. Suu Kyi was placed under house arrest for "endangering the state".

Despite her detention, the NLD swept 392 of 483 parliamentary seats in a May 1990 election, but the SLORC ignored the result and instead launched a sweeping crackdown on all opposition, imprisoning many senior NLD members at the national and local level.

The rump of the party, led by Aung Shwe, formally expelled Ms. Suu Kyi after pressure from the SLORC in December 1991, shortly after she won the Nobel Peace Prize. Aung Shwe remains NLD chairman, the party sources said.

## 1 killed as Indonesian troops open fire on rioting quake survivors

## Hong Kong's last colonial legislature sworn in

HONG KONG (R) — Hong Kong's last colonial legislature — and its most democratic — was sworn into office Wednesday, just 629 days before Beijing resumes sovereignty over the territory.

The ceremony for the 60-seat chamber Beijing has vowed to abolish in 1997 came only hours before Governor Chris Patten was set to give his annual policy speech.

"I, Allen Lee Peng-Fei, solemnly, sincerely and truly declare and affirm that I will uphold the law of Hong Kong and that I will conscientiously and truly serve the people of Hong Kong as a member of the Legislative Council," said Mr. Allen Lee, the longest serving member and chairman of the Liberal Party.

Mr. Allen Lee's business-oriented Liberal Party is the second largest grouping in the council with 10 elected members.

The Democratic Party, the chamber's largest with 19 councillors, is the flagship of the pro-democracy camp and its leaders have been denounced as subversives by Beijing.

Mr. Allen Lee was followed by 58 other councillors in the brief but solemn ceremony. One member was out of the territory.

China bitterly opposed democratic reforms enacted last year which culminated last month in the first fully elected legislature in Hong Kong's history. It has sworn to dismantle the council and replace it with one of its own design.

A more immediate challenge will be working out the new legislature's relationship with the government.

Until the last session, the council included three senior government officials and 18 appointed members who could act as the government's eyes and ears and, in the case of the officials at least, could cast crucial votes for the government.

"Can (Patten) work with this Legco now?" Martin Lee, leader of the Democratic Party, said in a radio interview earlier Wednesday.

"What will he do, what will he say as to enhancing cooperation between the government and the Legislative Council?"

you," Col. Bambang Sukowinarno, the top official of the district, announced.

He said geologists have confirmed that "even the small (quakes) would hardly be noticeable."

Tens of thousands of people were homeless after about 10,000 buildings were damaged or destroyed by the magnitude-7 quake near Sumatra's southwestern coast.

So far only 80 bodies have been recovered and buried in mass graves, but officials say the toll will be at least 100.

After surviving the quake and reliving the terror by daily aftershocks, residents are unwilling to go back to those homes still standing despite the official assurances.

"I would rather remain here under this tent, where it is safe if a quake strikes again," said Wiranti, 35.

Survivors also complained of food and medicine shortages. Officials blamed the shortages on the remoteness of the area, which is an eight-hour drive from the nearest big town. Roads, power and telephone lines have also been damaged by the quake.

The men armed with guns apparently tried to rob homes left unguarded after the earthquake, but when that failed, abducted the girl, said Lt. Supandi, a military spokesman.

On being spotted by local residents, the kidnappers rushed into the police station to avoid being lynched, witnesses said. Residents said the girl was raped, but that could not be immediately confirmed.

As the mob grew, anger at the miserable conditions since the disaster was directed against the police for protecting the culprits, Lt. Supandi said.

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## Jordan Times

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### Unions on political stage

IN HIS ADDRESS to the Royal Medical Services on Tuesday, His Majesty King Hussein raised a very important constitutional issue about the legality of compulsory membership in professional associations. "It is probably wrong to force any physician to join the medical association," the King said. "And I wonder if such a regulation is constitutional or democratic." On this specific point, the Constitution has this to say in Article 23 (2): The State shall protect work and shall legislate thereon on the basis of the following principles, *inter alia*, the organisation of free unions within the limits of the law." As we read this provision, the establishment of unions and therefore professional associations must be free in the sense that membership therein must be free to all those who wish to join.

If this constitutional reference is not enough or clear enough, we may still refer to international norms as reflected in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) for guidance. Article 20(2) of this declaration is quite explicit and unequivocal. It reads as follows: "No one may be compelled to belong to an association." These words are compelling enough against forcing any one to belong to an association or union. If the UDHR lacks legal effect and therefore is not binding, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) has codified this principle of the declaration and gave it the force of law for all states which ratified it including Jordan which became a state party in 1978.

Accordingly and on the strength of the Constitution and the ICCPR, which has the effect of law in the country, indeed no one may be forced to belong to an association.

This construction of the municipal and international law, however, does not suggest that the regulation of any profession by an association is illegal. Indeed all professions need to be regulated in order to ensure that physicians, engineers and lawyers, to mention only a few, meet certain qualification requirements before they may practise their profession.

Professional associations would continue therefore to play an indispensable role in the sense that they have to articulate and adopt the necessary criteria for professionals before they may engage in their work. That is why professions like of lawyers and physicians continue to have their own respective associations worldwide.

An equally vexing issue is whether professional associations can engage in politics over and above their immediate concerns. As far as we can understand our Constitution and the relevant international treaties, any one may freely express his opinion including a group of people assembled lawfully to exercise a legal purpose. This means that actions called for by any such association must be consistent with the laws of the land. In other words, professional associations may indeed address political issues and take appropriate decision or action provided it is in conformity with the law. What is consistent with the law and what is not is something only a court of law may rule on. On the issue of normalisation per se, we believe that our courts would declare illegal any action or policy that contravenes the peace treaty with Israel.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Reflecting on the imminent Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit a writer in Al Ra'i daily said Jordanians are divided over the prospects of the event. Some believe that the conference will not achieve anything at all, while others reckon it will mark the beginning of prosperity for Jordan and the whole region, said Tareq Masa'weh. The writer noted that the public and private sectors are preparing a realistic agenda for discussion by the international delegates and while it is not possible to predict results, it is important not live in a dream-world. Noting the conference will offer an opportunity to illuminate Jordan's investment climate for the rest of the world, the writer said that investors normally look for lucrative businesses, cheap labour and skilled workers in addition to markets for their products. He added that investors do not have 'pots of money' to squander and Jordanians should realise that only by offering the right incentives and creating an opportune climate will investment of capital be encouraged. Referring to the sprucing of streets and the beautification of parts of Amman in preparation for the event, the writer said that although these measures are required it is more important to convince others of our ideas and proposals, at least on the pan-Arab level, and so ensure real and lasting investments.

A writer in Al Dustour said that the newly elected municipal councils have discovered that their municipalities are almost broke and unable to carry out proper municipal services because of a lack of funding. Saleh Qallab said the municipalities seem to have neglected investments in income-generating projects which would in turn finance services, even though they were aware that city and village development banks would have given them soft-loans for those projects. The writer said former municipal councils had contributed to this failure by either failing to collect fees from the public, or had over employed people to work in the municipalities.

## On teachers and their performance: a pat on the shoulder will do

IN HIS impromptu speech to the conference on "Arab Teacher Education in the 21st Century" held at the University of Jordan last week, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan emphasised that any "development" of teacher performance (and of others) must be based on the crucial recognition of "quality, integrity and equality of opportunity" for all, regardless of the "sect, doctrine, party or group" to which individuals belong.

The Crown Prince is absolutely correct. In the teaching profession, as in all professions, a sense of fairness and justice has to prevail. Teachers should be hired, promoted, evaluated and rewarded according to criteria which must not be compromised under any circumstance. If the Ministry of Education is "the mother of all ministries", as His Royal Highness aptly described it, there is all the more reason why we should insist on making it congenial and possible for teachers to excel in effort, commitment and performance.

Implied in the Crown Prince's speech, however, was the sound, but sad, realisation that the Arab World has, so far, not lived up to the principles we advocate and the ideals we cherish. Prince Hassan predicted the 21st century will bring "winds of change", which will inevitably affect the region. Those winds may herald the forceful application of principles and ideals we cherish, since the 20th century ultimately failed to provide for the implementation of these principles and ideals. The Crown Prince, who has invested a great deal of time and effort in the educational sector, is fully aware of the obstacles, problems and challenges and is constantly reminding those involved of the bitter facts. The obvious assumption here, is that if we do not stare these ugly facts in the face, confront them courageously and prescribe effective solutions to them, they will be with us for a long time to come.

It is no secret, especially to those involved or concerned, that the teaching profession in our part of the world has regressed and deteriorated remarkably over the years, instead of progressing and improving as one would expect. Despite the facilities made available, the technologies enthusiastically adopted, the sophisticated syllabi and the teaching methods introduced, the workshops, seminars and conferences devoutly held, the quality of teaching and learning in the public sector (the private sector is a different story) has not improved much. On the contrary, it seems to be going down-hill, at times, at an alarming speed.

There are zillions of reasons and causes related to the students themselves, ranging from: their attitude, their

commitment and their motivation and readiness to learn; to their parents and the home environment; the support parents give their kids, the values they foster in them, the habits they reinforce, their care or carelessness about their child's behaviour at school; to the overall cultural environment, teaching methods and syllabi (not all that glitters is gold); to the teachers themselves and their psychological, moral and physical condition; to the headmasters and their practices; to the ministry officials and their conduct, etc.

One of the main reasons or causes, however, (which is what concerns us directly here) is the absence of the principle of fairness and justice in dealing with teachers. I'll explain.

The other day, a former student of mine who had been a teacher in the Ministry of Education for about nine years, paid me a visit to say "hi" and to tell me that he had resigned from his job and that he had accepted a job offer at a local bank. Though I was not surprised in the least, I was greatly saddened. His resignation is a great loss to his students and to the dear homeland.

He is no ordinary person. He is everything a teacher should be and more. In addition to a charming personality, a great sense of humour, a pleasant voice, a cheerful outlook on life and an alertness beyond description, he had a matchless sense of commitment, a profound understanding of what it means to be a teacher in the Arab World at this precise time in history, an outstanding command of English (the subject he teaches) and of Arabic, in addition to a remarkable awareness of public events and happenings, a real devotion to reading and thinking beyond the boundaries of the narrow discipline and he also possesses a sharp mind. Without exaggeration, the man is a gem. I had the opportunity to observe him teach, to talk to his students and colleagues and to debate a variety of issues with him. He was a great inspiration to his students and extremely courteous to his colleagues. Truly incredible in a world where there is very little commitment to work and very little courtesy.

"I have given up, I cannot take it any more," he said. "I can deal with the hassle from the 'service' and its drivers, with being poorer than a church mouse, with teaching at a relatively remote part of the world, with my wife and parents making fun of me for not getting what I deserve, with stories about colleagues and former friends less qualified than I who 'made it'. But I cannot deal with ingratitude, cynicism, harassment and injustice on the part of my peers and superiors. I cannot let my life and career will be with us for a long time to come.

There are zillions of reasons and causes related to the

be run for me by people who are extremely inefficient, careless about the calling and extremely unfair in their judgement. I cannot tolerate a situation where the least efficient and able teacher is promoted, rewarded and favoured more than the able and efficient. I cannot stand cliques, favouritism and personal and familiar influence as the sole criteria for job punishments and rewards."

What an ugly world it is when people are not given a fair chance, when distinction is not recognised, when mediocrity is not only tolerated but celebrated, when those who make great efforts are on an equal or less footing with those who do not, when those who deserve a simple 'thank you' are denied it.

The unfortunate thing is that the case of this particular teacher is not an isolated case. Talk to the teachers, and you will see the amount of indiscipline and injustice. Worse, many truly able and talented teachers (almost all underprivileged and unrecognised) have either already quit or will quit the moment they get the chance.

We must have faith in history. We must look at the bright side. We must believe that the 21st century will be better. But we must also do two things, and without delay.

The first thing is, we need to ask ourselves what we can do to speed up the process of change. I believe that with serious planning (and Jordan has a very successful record with development plans) and with faithful implementation of specific measures, we can make progress happen at the beginning of the 21st century and not at the middle or end of it. We have the means, but need the will.

The second, more urgent thing, lies in what we can do now to remedy the deterioration of the profession and the loss of those excellent teachers whose number is decreasing. With opportunities opening up in the private sector, many of them are likely to be snatched up.

The solution here is simple. Such teachers do not want diamonds "as big as the Ritz" — to quote Fitzgerald — but appreciation and encouragement. The worst thing you could do is to appoint a headmaster whose sole pleasure is to insult and punish quality teachers and reward and privilege the mediocre ones, in both subtle and blatant ways.

I do not think it is difficult or impossible to spot teachers who exert a great effort and distinguish themselves in teaching and pat them on the shoulder. Or is it?

We all appreciate the constant effort and attention the Crown Prince has given to the education sector in Jordan, and we wish for more.

## Khartoum beset by multiple crises

By Gill Lusk

LONDON — The tradition of determined political protest has reawakened in Sudan. And the government, only too well aware that Generals Abbud and Numeiri were both brought down by civilian uprisings, has sent a clear signal that it has no intention of losing power so easily.

The government's response to a week of street demonstrations was brutal: indiscriminate shooting and a tactic new to riot control (though familiar in some areas as a traditional way of dealing with thieves) — the deliberate breaking of arms and legs. Despite a swift clamp-down on channels of information, human rights monitors have been able to confirm many such cases; some protesters were beaten during the protests, others were attacked in their own homes and then dragged out onto the street and abandoned. Amid reports of 40 deaths, six were confirmed at MEI press time. Security men were reported to have sealed off Khartoum mortuary, preventing families from identifying bodies.

The protests began peacefully, with a silent march by Khartoum University students on the weekend of 9-10 September. They were protesting at the detention the previous week of three fellow students and at least nine other people. These detentions had immediately followed the government's much publicised "amnesty" of political and criminal detainees and prisoners, timed to coincide with the visit of a European Parliament delegation and under which former Prime Minister Sadiq Al-Mahdi was also released. Indeed, dozens of detainees are known to have remained in jail or in "ghost houses" after the amnesty. One not released and whose fate was already causing particular concern was Brigadier Mohammad Ahmad Al-Rayah, who had taken the unprecedented step of suing the government, alleging torture and rape.

These were by no means Khartoum's or Sudan's first demonstrations since the National Islamic Front took

power on 30 June 1989. There have been regular protests throughout the North, with Islamic banks a favoured target for burning; at least two were attacked last week. However, these were the first protests to take over central Khartoum and the government feared a repetition of "October", the peaceful civilian march on the Palace that overthrew Ibrahim Abbud in 1964, and "April", the equally peaceful civilian march on the Palace which catalysed the army into removing Jaafar Numeiri in 1985.

Moreover, the build-up of external pressure on the government has continued, with Ethiopia persuading the Organisation of African Unity to condemn Sudan's refusal to hand over three suspects in the assassination attempt on President Mubarak and Egypt cancelling the appointment of its new ambassador to Khartoum, all in the same week.

The government therefore moved swiftly to challenge the protesters, dispatching not only riot police but NIF militias to smash the marchers, which were quickly joined by non-students. The bid to restore order has been marked by another new development: the highly visible presence of groups of "civilians" armed with automatic weapons.

These are posted in strategic positions and intervene when deemed necessary. The government thus managed to seal off central Khartoum, closing the four Nile bridges, and containing the demonstrators in less sensitive areas of the capital. Despite the draconian measures, protests continued for a full week. As MEI went to press, leaflets were circulating that called for further protests.

The government knows it cannot rest easy. An ill-timed

rise in the price of bread (to 49 Sudanese pounds for a small loaf, considered just enough for one meal)

ensures that discontent will

continue to seethe at the

most basic level. A worker at

the bottom of the income

scale with the average fami-

ly five eating two small

meals a day spends a

month's wages on about two

weeks' food.

The government has

responded with rapid repression, knowing that a major brake on protest over the last six years has been the popular conviction that, unlike previous military governments, the NIF will not leave power without a fight to the bitter end. The widespread assumption is that the tradition of political tolerance has been broken and that the NIF is finished in Sudan once it loses power.

Meanwhile, the opposition National Democratic Alliance has been characteristically cautious in responding to the government's crisis. There is a feeling that the three main players — the Umma, Democratic Unionist party and SPLA — are trying to stitch up a triangle that leaves little room for the country's many other parties and groups.

The NDA is reluctant to accept the application for membership of Riek Machar's Southern Sudan Independence Movement, not least because of its name but also because it does not fit in with this three-cornered scheme of things. In the meantime, Riek's (and before that, John Garang's) former spokesman John Luk Jok and the ever mobile William Nyuon Bany (a respected military commander who had only recently returned to Riek after fighting for Khartoum) announced that they had "overthrown" Riek. But they seem to have failed to capitalise on the discontent within Riek's SSIM. After the SPLA flew William up to Kongor, there was heavy fighting in parts of Upper Nile between William's and SSIM forces, most of whom appear to have remained on Mubarak.

Four days later, Cairo said it had cancelled, by presidential decree, the appointment of its new Khartoum ambassador. Egyptian officials make it clear the attack on President Mubarak has changed the nature of the long-standing quarrel with Sudan: unlike earlier disputes, it cannot be swept under the carpet. Both Cairo and Addis Ababa have accused Sudan not only of harbouring the attackers but of being involved in the assassination attempt.

With Eritrea and Uganda already having broken off relations, the sense of encirclement is palpably growing. Nevertheless, Kenya, which has repeatedly shown a conciliatory attitude, chose this same week to detain two resident Northern Sudanese oppositionists (one Umma, one SPLA) and threaten to return them to Khartoum, claiming that they had organised the riots in the city.

## LETTERS

### MENA has a logo

To the editor:

We are sending you a copy of the logo for the Middle East North Africa (MENA) summit since we noted that one of your readers has suggested that there ought to be a logo for the summit, which he seems not to have seen printed in the other Jordanian daily papers (Letters to the editor, by Mounif Zu'bi, Oct. 10, 1995). The logo consists of a sketch of the globe, with an upward-pointing arrow, similar to graph for economic indicators, symbolising growth and prosperity, with Amman being the forum.

In fact, part of the purpose of the Operations Room is to accept information available to the public regarding the summit.

For the staff of the MENA Summit Operations Room.

Rania Atalla

### Highway robbery

To the Editor:

Jordan is a country which prides itself on law and order. Visitors to Jordan delight in meeting the friendly Jordanian people.

Jordan would seem to be the last country where tourists would be obliged to pay for something they neither want nor use.

On March 1, 1995, without notice, or warning, the Ministry of Antiquities banned horses from riding through the Siq (in Petra). Fine, except that no thought or planning had been given to the implications.

Yet, until today, we are forced to pay JD 7 for the horses, which even if we did use it would be only for a few hundred yards from the entry point to the beginning of the Siq. More expensive than Concord to New York. We would waste more time getting on and off the horses than riding such a short distance.

There can be no justification for this "law". I am fully aware of the implications for the families of Wadi Musa, but this is a social welfare matter to which the Jordanian government should address itself.

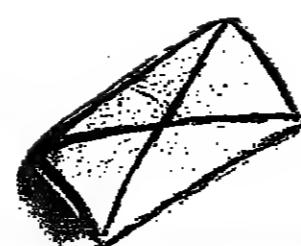
When the entrance fees for Petra were drastically increased last year, I welcomed this step. I would not hesitate to welcome a further increase, given adequate notice, but to force tourists to pay JD 7 for nothing reminds me of Rob Roy McGregor, bare-faced Highway Robbery.

James Smith,  
Jasmine Tours Ltd.,  
High Street,  
Cookham, Berkshire,  
England

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Middle East International

# Weekender



Jordan Times, October 12, 1995

Published Every Thursday

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## Society on the Move

### Warm front starts to take chill out of many relations

extremely inefficient and unfair in their treatment where the least entitled, rewarded and influential cannot stand and familiar influence as is and rewards. People are not given a fair go. I am not given a fair go, when I am nominated, when those who are less fitting who deserve a simple

case of this particular teacher, and selection and injustice of teachers is almost all. It have either already get the chance

I must look at the bright

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the private sector in Jordan

The sudden departure of the dean of the Arab diplomatic corps in Amman, United Arab Emirates Ambassador Mohammad Jasim Shukr surprised more than a few of his friends and associates. But most would tell you the reason was not, as was reported in the opposition weekly newspaper *Al Majd* this week, because he was avoiding a big diplomatic send-off which would put him in a situation of having to shake hands with Israeli Ambassador Shimon Shamir. In fact, we learned that the UAE ambassador had been preparing to leave four weeks in advance of his end of duty here. The only diplomat to actually see him off last Thursday was Saudi Arabia's Chargé d'Affaires in Amman Mohammad Bassam, who said the report by *Al Majd* was "preposterous." Still many ambassadors felt an even greater loss to hear their counterpart left so quickly, and they were unable to give him the proper farewell, particularly since Mr. Shukr himself was known for being one of the most gracious of diplomatic hosts.

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**Peace is sharing:** Not planning to avoid any handshakes come early November will be Jordan's Ambassador to the U.S. Fayed Tarawneh and former Israeli chief negotiator to the Jordan-Israel talks Elieakim Rubinstein. The two former counterparts will share the first of what will become an annual prize for contributions to peace organised and funded by Israeli businesswoman and philanthropist Gita Sherover. Mrs. Sherover is the proprietor of *Beit Gabriel*, the structure she built overlooking Lake Tiberias in memory of her only son, which was the site of the first meeting in Israel between His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in which they exchanged the instruments of ratification of the peace treaty. The \$50,000 prize will be split evenly between Messrs. Tarawneh and Rubinstein. Mr. Tarawneh, who will be in Amman to attend the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit, will extend his stay until Nov. 7 when the awarding of the prize will take place at *Beit Gabriel*. Mr. Tarawneh plans to invite more than a dozen relatives and close friends to the event, including of course former Prime Minister who is his predecessor as head of the Jordanian delegation to the peace talks Abdul Salam Majali.

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**An editor's note:** Among the group of Arab thinkers who were in Amman last week for a meeting of the Arab Thought Forum (ATF), partially attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who is the ATF chairman, was *Editor-in-Chief* of the Kuwaiti magazine *Al Arabi* Mohammad Rumeihi. The meeting itself brought together delegates from Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Iraq to discuss the Gulf crisis and the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and it was agreed there that another meeting should take place in January to further discuss the issue. Mr. Rumeihi, took the opportunity of his visit to Jordan to drop in on old friends such as former Minister of Culture Amin Moshoud, who taught history at Kuwait University until 1990, journalist Tawfiq Abu Bakr and Secretary General of the Communist Party Yacoub Zayadeen. The influential editor was said to be of the opinion that it was time for reconciliation and forward thinking in the Arab fold. According to those he visited here, he spoke of the agony of the Iraqi people, saying Kuwaitis were indeed concerned for their welfare but were also "highly critical" of the Iraqi regime. Mr. Rumeihi said that he expects a rather larger turnout of Kuwaiti delegates to the planned ATF meeting in January. On relations with Jordan, he said he was very optimistic that the exchange of ambassadors would take place within three to four months. The warming was quite evident, said one of his friends here.

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**Was it or wasn't it?** Mr. Rumeihi was not the only Kuwaiti said to be visiting Amman. While cool weather draws near, warmer relations seemed to be the trend when also this week a delegation representing Kuwaiti Islamists, was reported to have met here with leaders of Jordan's Muslim Brotherhood movement to discuss relations between Islamists in both countries. Abdullah Mutawee, a prominent Kuwaiti businessman and member of the visiting delegation, was said to express dismay over the Jordanian Muslim brotherhood's stand during the Gulf crisis. But following their discussions here, a local newspaper reported, the visitors said they understood their associates' position, and both sides agreed to open a new page. But Islamic Action Front (IAF) sources in Amman denied they had any formal contact with leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood movement of Kuwait and with Mr. Mutawee, who is a member of Al Islah (Reform) Society, an institution of the brotherhood

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**Getting to the business at hand:** From across the Mediterranean, Professor Alberto Martinelli, Italy's renowned dean of the Faculty of Political Science at the University of Milan is in Amman where he has given lectures on Italy's political system in transition at the University of Jordan. Prof. Martinelli, 55, obtained his masters degree in economics at Bocconi University of Milan and his Ph.D. in sociology from the University of California at Berkeley. He has published books on sociological and political theory, complex organisations, entrepreneurship and management, higher education, interest groups and political parties and international economic relations. Prof. Martinelli, who writes regular commentaries in *Corriere Della Sera*, Italy's largest newspaper, is here also to discuss possible exchanges of scholars and researchers and ways of strengthening area studies on Europe. The practical professor, who is accompanied on this trip by his wife, was said to be so eager to come to Jordan that when the Italian concern found it a problem to cover his air fare (full accommodations in Jordan were being covered by the Jordanian side) Prof. Martinelli simply said, "Oh, that's no problem, I'll pay my own way."

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U.S.

## U.S. presidents and the Palestine question

**U.S. Policy on Palestine From Wilson to Clinton**  
Michael W. Suleiman, ed.

U.S. Policy on Palestine from Wilson to Clinton makes a concerted effort to provide a comprehensive historical overview of U.S. foreign policy as it pertains to Palestine. This effort was inspired by the need for a concise reference regarding the role America has played in the modern history of the Palestinian people and the state of Israel. By focusing on various U.S. Administrations, the book provides a useful study aid for those who wish to obtain an introductory history of American policy towards the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Although it consists of a compilation of essays, U.S. on Palestine exhibits continuity and a concise interpretation of its overriding theme. While the opening chapter discusses American perceptions of the Palestinian people, the final essay addresses factors affecting U.S. policy on Palestine, noting that the terms of the ongoing peace process reflect a continuation of the United States' negation of Palestinian self-determination.

In the first chapter, the book's editor, Michael W. Suleiman, discusses the reasons behind the American public's stereotypical view of the Palestinian people and how this antipathy has affected U.S. policy in the Middle East.

Suleiman stresses that, in interpreting biblical texts, some fundamentalist Christians regard the Holy Land in terms of Christians and Jews, thereby marginalising Palestinian rights to self-determination. Furthermore, the Orientalist view of the Palestinians, which the American people inherited from Europe, caused American policy-makers to dismiss the political motives behind Palestinian actions, instead attributing these actions to "cultural backwardness" rather than the will to struggle for national liberation. Hence, these negative stereotypes facilitated the efforts of pro-Israeli groups in America to place the "security" of Israel at the top of American foreign policy priorities, at the expense of Palestinian human rights and self-determination.

In her essay, Deborah Gerner addresses how the Eisenhower administration missed more than one opportunity to solve the Palestinian-Israeli problem. She begins by noting that American foreign policy under Eisenhower was concerned primarily with opposing communism. As a result, the U.S. government's main goal was to minimise Soviet involvement in the Middle East and protect petroleum supplies for its European allies.

Consequently, resolving the Palestinian issue "was important only insofar as the failure to do so might damage U.S. and Western relations with the Arab World, make

A time to remember: Also here from Italy, but by way of Australia more than 30 years ago, is Australian-born painter Janet Venn-Brown. Ms. Venn-Brown has a mission, which is to sell off her 100 or so remaining paintings of the Arab Middle East to Arab art appreciators and those who would like to remember "a period in our history that has already been, or is at present being surpassed."

Her exhibition, "An Arab Diary," will be held at Alia Art Gallery from Oct. 15 to 22 and will be opened under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Wijdan Ali. Ms. Venn-Brown, who was last in Jordan in 1989, explains that she paints in guache (a mixture using quick-drying egg white) because for her "the spontaneity of the impression is important." Her works include scenes of

Khristyne Haje, Amman, Sana'a, Nazwa and a particular favourite, Jerusalem.

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**From the head of the class:** Emmy Award winner Khristyne Haje, who co-starred as the redhead "Simone" in the 5-year run of the American sit-com "Head of the Class" is here in Jordan. This being her second visit, Ms. Haje fell right into the social pace of things touching down at Queen Alia International Airport and whisking off to Mount Nebo for a wedding ceremony of business entrepreneur Ghassan Salti and Rula Khreisheh. The 23-year-old daughter of Kamil and Rita Haje of Los Angeles, California, was voted by People Magazine as one of the 50 most beautiful people in the world. Her quick visit with family and a tour of the Kingdom and Jerusalem is actually a leisure leg of a working trip as she will head for Athens to shoot a new film. Ms. Haje was so thrilled with Jordan that she plans to bring her entire family back with her next time. On her new film we say, "Break a leg, Khristyne!" (That's stage talk for "good luck," an expression which is taboo in the theatre arts.)

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**A long-haul cause:** The theatre expression "break a leg" is not how Jordan will greet the German volunteer

Jennifer Hamarne

cyclists when they arrive in Amman Friday to prepare for a 27 kilometre tour of the capital joined by Jordanian cyclists from the Jordan Bicycle Federation. The German group, which calls itself "Tour Peiper," is made up of Olympic gold-medalists, well-known doctors, politicians, media personalities and other prominent German individuals, in addition to former cancer patients. Their purpose is to demonstrate their commitment to the fight against childhood cancer by exerting physical effort, creating public awareness and offering contributions to childhood cancer treatment and research around the world. Headed by Professor Fritz Lampert, chief of the Department of Ambulatory Paediatrics and Haematology/Oncology at Children's Hospital at the University of Giessen in Germany, the group selected the Al Amal Cancer Centre here as one of its beneficiaries and thus will present the centre with its donation on Saturday at a ceremony at the site of the new centre. It is after that that the cyclists, German and Jordanian, will mount up for the tour of Amman which will then continue through to Jordan's archaeological and historical sites and end in Aqaba. The German team will continue through the Wadi Araba crossing to extend their humanitarian mission in Israel. Wishing them a safe journey.

## BOOK REVIEW

discuss how the Reagan, Bush, and Clinton Administrations viewed Israel as a strategic asset in the region, and continued to negate the Palestinian right to self-determination.

In the book's conclusion, Ibrahim Abo Lughod delineates the main factors that continue to affect U.S. policy on Palestine, including "deep-seated racial, ethnic, and religious prejudices against the Arabs" and the refusal to acknowledge the Palestinian struggle as a national liberation movement. Abo Lughod adds that by subordinating the Palestinian question to the wider Arab-Israeli conflict, America has focused on Palestinian autonomy rather than full-fledged independence, and has ignored the plight of the Palestinian people in its dealing with states in the region.

Although books which consist of a collection of essays on a central topic may not always be appreciated as a single unit, U.S. Policy on Palestine is an exception. Indeed, the essays' chronological order gives the work an historical structure and renders it an easily readable history of American foreign policy. The true value of the book lies in its function as a concise yet detailed reference of how American presidents have addressed the question of Palestine.

By Joseph Ayoub

## Sources of knowledge

By Jean-Claude Elias

One of the personal computers' idiosyncrasies is the way people have to learn how to operate them. Whether old-timers thinking it's never too late and jumping on the bandwagon or freshly graduated students, there is no way one could have learned in an academic way all what it takes to use a PC and be in control.

In spite of the fact that computers have become an official part of schools curriculum, even those who just finished their studies will find that between the time they graduated and the time they have to use a computer in their profession, things have already changed, and machines and software have evolved. Unless they maintain an uninterrupted relationship with PCs, they constantly have to learn new ways.

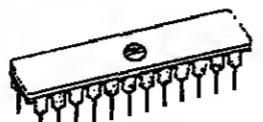
I am often told that those who study informatics, electronics or computer science should know everything about PCs. Alas! First, the art of using personal computers — that is running Windows, spreadsheets, etc. — doesn't have much to do with the above mentioned sciences. Second, the winds of change are blowing so fast that the never ending process of learning the said art is putting everybody on the same level. On some topics, a student may not know more than a 13-year-old schoolboy.

True, those who take scientific topics like the ones above are more prepared than others to understand the world of computers. They can probably learn faster and have, overall, a better conceptualisation of what's going on inside the machine and in the software. Eventually, they'll make a better use of the computer than those who didn't study any of the above disciplines.

If not at school where can the layman get a "PC knowledge" from? While the most efficient, straightforward approach is the practical one — i.e. get a PC and spend an average of 4 to 6 hours a day, 8 days a week, trying to figure out the way it works — there are still more systematic methods.

Taking training courses with specialised companies, software houses or colleges is a sure, though long if not tedious, scheme to reach the PCs Holy Grail. Buying original software and reading the programme's user manual, provided it is well-written, often proves to be an efficient and time saving approach. The problem of those who complain of not understanding software is sometimes due to the fact that they are not running originals but pirated.

## chip talk



illegal copies, given to them without any documentation.

Even when a good user manual is available, how many of us, including the writer of this column who humbly confesses, do actually read the book? Very few, I am afraid.

Another, parallel kind of computer literature has recently proven to be of a great help to PC aficionados — PC magazines. Apart from the generous share of advertisement they hold (more than 75 per cent) these publications also contain technical reviews and stories, at various levels of difficulty. Each can find his or her own. Through them, I have often discovered new ways of doing things, learned smart tricks, benefited from a useful advice on miscellaneous topics. Some users owe them most of what they know about PCs.

PC Magazine, Personal Computer World, Byte, Windows Magazine, PC Shopper, PC Pro and others (all available at newsstands in Amman) are extremely attractive to read. Much more than plain user manuals that could be boring. The magazines are colourful, well-designed, always up-to-date. They publish articles on new software, that are very helpful for first time users. With such reading and a little experience, the average computer user can do wonders. No need to go to any school.

Similar Arabic publications have recently appeared in the Middle East. Though well-prepared and certainly useful for those who cannot read English, they can hardly compete with the above mentioned American and English magazines that are issued by large, powerful publishing houses with tremendous technical and marketing capabilities.

Whatever path PC lovers chose to follow for their learning, one thing is certain, the more they read, the better the results.

### AMAZING FACTS

\* One normally associates pyramids with ancient Egypt, but surprisingly, the world's largest pyramid is in Mexico. It is called the Quetzacoatl and was built with sun dried bricks and earth around the year 100. Although only 177 feet high, it covers an area of 45 acres. The tallest pyramid, however, is the Pyramid of Cheops in Egypt, which was originally 480 feet high. It covers an area of 13 acres. It has been estimated that the Mexican pyramid is a million cubic yards greater in volume than the Pyramid of Cheops.

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\* The Tuatara lizard, of New Zealand, still grows the rudiments of a third eye on the top of its head — a link with the time when the creature had many flying enemies.

\*\*\*\*\*

\* The Rafflesia Arnoldi, is the largest blossom in the world measuring 3 feet across — it also gives an overpowering stench of rotting carrion.

\*\*\*\*\*

\* Liu Ch'ing was born with two pupils in each eye! But this double deal nature didn't stop him from entering public services and, in 955 A.D., he became the governor of Sian province.

\*\*\*\*\*

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Mohammad A. Shuqair

### LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

#### CLOTHES

— How pretty this suit is!  
Ya laha min badlitn jameela!

— Tomorrow I intend to buy a shirt, trousers, necktie, and socks.

Gbadan anwee an ashtari Kamisan, wa bantalounan, warabtata onoq wa jawarib

— The skirt, bodice, dress, shawl and slippers are old. Attannoura wassudriya wal fustan wash'shaf wash'shibib qadeema

— We use an apron for babies and kitchen work. Nasta'mil al-maryala lib-atfal wa'amal al-mat'bakh

— She wants an evening dress & a slip. Toreed fustan sahra wakalsun

#### JOKES

\* SERVANT: My master is out, sir.

VISITOR: When is he expected to come back?

SERVANT: Just wait for a minute. I'll go and ask him!

\* MISTRESS: Don't cut cheese before cleaning the knife.

MAID: It's not necessary to do the cleaning, madam. I cut a bar of soap with it a few minutes ago!

#### BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. What is the connection between Heliopolis, New York and London?

2. Where were the Hanging Gardens; who built them?

3. What may be regarded as the greatest of all "recording" achievement?

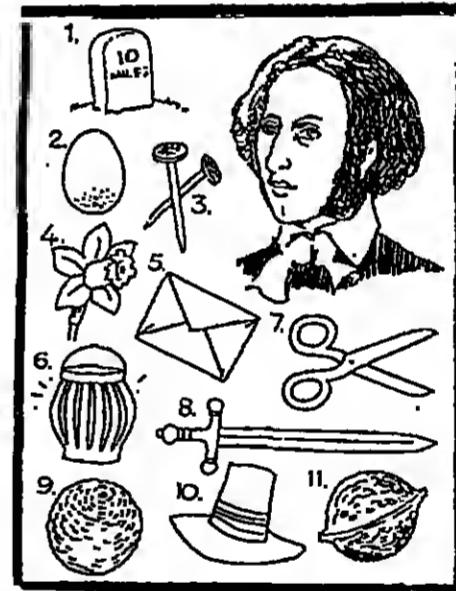
4. What is ager-ager?

5. What is tafia? Where do we get it from?

6. The former custom of Hindu widows' committing suicide on their husbands' funeral pyres. What is it called?

### PUZZLES

(A) C..... is for composer. This is a great German artist. The initials of the objects spell out his NAME.



(B) WHAT is it that occurs once in a minute, twice in a moment, and yet not once in a 1000 years.

Thursday, Oct. 12, 1995

## JTV CHANNEL TWO WEEKLY PREVIEW

10:25 Buccaneers  
11:30 Movie — The Maid  
Starring: Martin Sheen & Jackie Bisset

Saturday, Oct. 14, 1995

2:00 Back To The Future  
2:30 Harry And The Hendersons  
3:00 Blue Heelers  
3:45 Only In Hollywood  
4:10 I Love Lucy  
4:30 Tarzan  
5:00 Children's Programme  
Les Mondes Engloutis  
"La Takades Inuks"  
5:30 Documentary  
Le Loire Au Fil Des Hommes  
6:00 Drama Series  
Operation Open 1 Et 2  
7:00 Le Journal  
7:15 Magazine  
Faut Pas Rever  
News Headlines  
7:35 First Flights  
8:00 Major Dad  
8:25 The Bold And The Beautiful  
9:10 Star Trek — The Next Generation  
10:00 News In English  
10:25 Movie — The Fifteen Streets  
Starring: Owen Teale & Ian Banner  
11:50 The Tin Flute

Sunday, Oct. 15, 1995

2:00 The Flintstones  
2:30 Joshua Jones  
2:45 Droopy Master Detective  
3:00 Scientific Eye  
3:30 Pugwall's Summer  
4:00 I Love Lucy  
4:30 Tarzan  
5:00 Children's Programme  
Les Mondes Engloutis  
5:30 Serie

Monday, Oct. 16, 1995

2:00 Shelley Duvall's Bedtime Stories  
2:30 Hey Dad!  
3:00 Nature World Of Mitsuaki  
4:00 I Love Lucy  
4:30 Tarzan  
5:00 Children Programme  
Les Mondes Engloutis  
5:30 Serie  
Les Aventuriers Du Rio Verde  
7:00 Le Journal  
7:15 Magazine  
Nimbus  
7:30 News Headlines  
7:35 Camp Wildest  
8:00 Women Eat Last  
(On the occasion of World Food Day)  
8:25 The Bold And The Beautiful  
9:10 Hearts Of The West  
10:00 News In English  
10:25 Inspector Morse  
12:00 American Chart Show

3:00 To Run The Gauntlet

4:00 I Love Lucy

4:30 Tarzan

5:00 Children's Programme  
Les Mondes Engloutis

5:30 Serie

Fruits Et Legumes

5:00 Magazine

Croisiere A L.A. Decouverte Du Monde

7:00 Le Journal

7:15 Magazine

Faut Pas Rever

7:30 News Headlines

7:35 The Secrets Of Treasure Islands

8:00 You Bet Your Life

8:25 The Bold And The Beautiful

9:10 True Blue

10:00 News In English

10:25 Movie — Love Can Be Murder

Starring: Jaclyn Smith & Corbin Bernsen

12:00 A Perfect Hero

12:30 Grace Under Fire

Wednesday, Oct. 18, 1995

2:00 Madeline

2:30 Gbos Writers

3:00 Tomorrows World

3:30 Amazing Stories

4:00 I Love Lucy

4:30 Tarzan

5:00 Children's Programme  
Les Mondes Engloutis

5:30 Jeux

Pago Pago

7:00 Le Journal

7:15 Magazine

Ushuaia, Le Magazine De L'Extreme

7:30 News Headlines

7:35 Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious Universe

8:00 Anything For A Laugh

8:25 The Bold And The Beautiful

9:15 The Other Americas

10:00 News In English

10:25 Prism

10:45 Law And Order

11:45 Silk Road

12:30 Second Thoughts

Tuesday, Oct. 17, 1995

2:00 Captain Planet  
2:30 M.A.N.T.I.S

Arts  
Very hard

## Give me land, give me more land. Don't fence me in

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

O. J. Simpson's show trial has just ended. It was a show trial because the amount of money spent on it was of the kind that would have normally sufficed to make a big-budget movie. And, as it has justly been acclaimed, that was exactly what the people in television had done by bringing to us all the twists and turns of the trial on a day-to-day basis.

O. J.'s story was a perfect fit of a certain cinematic genre where the accused is always a famous television star or a retired football hero. But once the jury in this trial had identified with this movie genre they had no choice but to find the defendant innocent because that is the way that it always is in the movies.

And this is the message that the director of a certain television programme called "Just like in the movies" conveys. In this TV show, the main character always compares whatever happens to him on a daily basis with movies, or television shows, that he has seen as a kid and he formulates decisions accordingly.

By implication, it would be quite an entertaining notion if all of us could live our lives just as if they were a part of a soap opera or, as it is the case for quite a lot of us, as part of an action thriller with a twist of Friday the 13th or something of the sort. Quite justifiably, this would imply that, just like fate — for those of us who believe in it anyway — our lives would be predetermined by some movie or another.

All this seems to indicate that just as television had transposed the Simpson trial from a physical to a virtual realm where its reality and significance were relativised, it has also transposed our lives into a virtual realm where what we know of and about ourselves and the millions and millions of people who live around us is purely what we see and hear on television and, to a lesser extent, what we read about it in the newspapers. We have never met Willy Claes but we see him on television everyday. We do

not know who Miles Kington is, but we can tell a lot about him by reading his articles. We have never been to the Comoros but somehow we now feel a slight tingle whenever the name crops up.

In spite of all this, and partly because of it, there is an actual reality outside of all this which just keeps turning up at the door. Unannounced. This is partly because we would rather not deal with it? Maybe. But to acknowledge its existence is a must if we are to solve all of our present problems.

Inefficiency, bad luck, corruption, boredom, poor training, disrespect, apathy, ignorance, resistance to modernisation, pride, the inability to listen, really listen, the inability to learn from past mistakes and the tangled web of bureaucracy all make an ultimate recipe for destruction.

The decline in the value of the commercial properties in the Wasfi Al-Tal Street (ex-Gardens Street) are no more than the direct results of the failure to properly implement worldwide accepted norms in urban planning regarding the movement of people between adjacent buildings, and the movement, also of people, from one side to another, simply because one designer refuses to acknowledge that the work of another exists. And no amount of faint yellow paint will ever disguise such planning mishaps.

We are smart enough to know what our mistakes are and no one should take offence that such problems are being put out in the open.

Intolerable situations are being created where it is folly to simply keep quiet waiting for the problem to go away. We cannot wish our problems away. We have to act now. We have to offer lasting solutions to problems that have been with us for years and years. By doing just that, and by crossing that threshold, we will have proved to the whole world that we have truly matured as individuals, as a people and as a nation.

Hug/  
black

## Arts & Fashion

### Very pregnant Jane Seymour hard at work on Dr. Quinn

By Lynn Elber

*The Associated Press*

AGOURA HILLS, California — A genuinely pregnant Jane Seymour, with rope tied carefully above her stomach's gentle swell, is wedged into a make-believe crevice of a make-believe pikes peak.

Her TV series character, Dr. Michaela Quinn, has taken a tumble while trying to climb the landmark Molorado Mountain — duplicated in a rugged suburban Los Angeles canyon — and must be hoisted to safety.

"The next thing I know, I'm flying through the air," says the actress, recombing her inadvertent stunt work from the safety of a nearby trailer.

"It would have been frightening if I didn't trust the crew. They don't want anything to happen to me. They'd really like the show to continue."

Seymour, although expecting twins in December, is hard at work in the hot, dusty state park doubling for Colorado Springs Circa 1860, the setting for Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman.

Pregnancy is hampering her just a bit. The same for Dr. Quinn, which is filming around its increasingly round star to disguise her condition.

The series, on the U.S. CBS broadcast network, is in its fourth season.

"In this particular episode I'm not supposed to be pregnant at all," Seymour says. "So we've got the bedroll here and the bag there and rock here and the wagon there."

"It's an interesting exercise in choreographing your props."

And in timing, Dr. Quinn, after all, is fresh from her honeymoon with rugged mountain man Byron Sully (Joe Lando), whom she

married in last season's finale.

Well known as one of TV's few virgins, it's impossible that the good doctor would be so soon and largely pregnant. After all, she is just discovering the joy of sex — and joy it is, says Seymour.

"Having been a virgin for so long, she has discovered she really likes it (lovenaking) a lot," the actress says.

Much is left to viewers' imagination. The series has cultivated a family following and is passionate about not giving offense.

"There's nothing graphic seen but there's plenty of sexual tension," Seymour says.

There will be a Quinn-Sully baby this season, arriving in the final episode. Visible pregnancy will catch up with Dr. Quinn after the actress has delivered her own newcomers.

She won't face another trauma: Finding herself unemployed.

"When I was younger, when I had my first child, I was actually fired from a (acting) job because I was pregnant," Seymour recalled.

The same people who said 'oh, how wonderful, how incredible,' the next day told me I was a medical risk, an insurance risk, and they'd be happy if they never saw me again."

Beth Sullivan, creator and executive producer of Dr. Quinn, proved accommodating. "It's worked out perfectly," Seymour said.

The 44-year-old actress, married to actor-director James Keach, is combining family and career in a big way. Along with children Katie and Sean Michael from a previous marriage, she helps raise her stepchildren.

Dr. Quinn has her own superwoman badge of honor, as a rare 19th century



Jane Seymour as Dr. Quinn

female doctor and the adoptive mother of orphans Matthew, Colleen and Brian (played by Chad Allen, Jessica Bowman and Shawn Toovey).

Dr. Quinn, sweet-natured and with an eye toward political correctness on historical issues such as American Indian mistreatment, has taken abuse from annoyed critics.

Seymour, clearly ardent about the series, rises to a

spirited defense.

"Dr. Quinn doesn't talk down to children or adults. It opens up wonderful issues that are very relevant to today," she said.

"The history factor is terrific. How many children open up their social studies books and yawn? Now they can actually relate to the plight of native Americans. They have names, they have kids, they're people."

One thing this production is not, Shaw insists, is a glit

essey in gender-bending.

"I have no wish, no hope, to see a rash of cross-dressed productions," said Shaw, distinguishing the production from such recent

By Matt Wolf

*The Associated Press*

LONDON — Her body bound in white, hair shorn close to the head, Fiona Shaw resembles a mummified, oddly sexless figure when she first appears as Shakespeare's Richard II.

So intriguing are Shaw and a magnificent supporting cast headed by David Threlfall as Bolingbroke that by play's end, you have forgotten what piqued your interest in the first place — that Shaw is a woman playing the bard's most lyrically spoken king.

Her performance in the Royal National Theatre production embraces childlike petulance and a reserved dignity, playfulness and pain.

Having opened in June at the Cottesloe Auditorium, the production is expected to remain in the repertory at least until March, with a two-week visit to Paris in January and a further seven weeks across Europe, starting March 25, 1996.

Richard II is the sixth collaboration between English director Deborah Warner and Shaw, the London-based Irish actress known to filmgoers from *My Left Foot* and *Mountains Of The Moon*, or perhaps from exercises in Hollywood slumming like *Super Mario Brothers*.

In her last National Theatre outing, in Sophie Treadwell's *Machinal*, Shaw won an Olivier Award as best actress.

Her past teamwork with Warner on *Electra* and *Hedda Gabler* made for electrifying theatre and a lot of exposed nerves on stage.

Occasionally, you wonder whether a different director would temper Shaw's tendencies towards excess, but there is no disputing the acuity both women bring to their work.

One thing this production is not, Shaw insists, is a glit

essey in gender-bending.

"This play, like a lot of his plays, is a sort of problem play," she said. "It has a theatrical centre based on femininity which had reached its cul de sac with men playing effete women."

The aim had nothing to do with putting a woman in pants — or, in this case, a wrap-around white sheet and legs bandaged to match.

Rather, it had everything to do with widening the definition of theatre.

"We have a very reduced imaginative menu at the moment. Theatre at its best reminds us that our imaginations are bigger than we allow them to be," Shaw said.

The production arose out of a conversation between director and star during a tour to Paris of their 1988-89 collaboration on Sophocles' *Electra*.

"I had never done any Shakespeare with Deborah,

Jordan Times, October 12, 1995

C

### Fiona Shaw's Richard II — an actress in love with risk

Fiona Shaw in the movie *My Left Foot*

London ventures as the popular all-male *As You Like It*, directed by Declan Donnellan.

The 36-year-old actress said in an interview that the production was not arrived at "lightly or quickly."

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"We have a very reduced imaginative menu at the moment. Theatre at its best reminds us that our imaginations are bigger than we allow them to be," Shaw said.

The production arose out of a conversation between director and star during a tour to Paris of their 1988-89 collaboration on Sophocles' *Electra*.

"I had never done any Shakespeare with Deborah, and we wanted to do a Shakespeare together."

Why Richard II?

"This play, like a lot of his plays, is a sort of problem play," she said. "It has a theatrical centre based on femininity which had reached its cul de sac with men playing effete women."

The aim, she said, was "to throw in an unknown element, and see what happens."

"The more you ask an audience to believe, the more they will believe. It's fun to break the boundaries down."

The production, accordingly, focuses less on male-female issues than on Richard's relationship to divinity in an era when the divine right of kings made any rebellion against the ruler a sin.

"We all left after about three days, and had a glass of champagne," she said.

Shaw returns to the Congreve comedy playing the central woman, Millamant, in an upcoming national revival, opening Oct. 19.

about that," said Shaw, whose restless intelligence is as evident in her conversation as it is in her acting.

The play, she said, addresses "not a man thinking he's a king, but a king who thinks he's God."

Richard II is not Shaw's first foray into reversing genders.

She recently appeared with Clare Higgins, John Wood and Alex Jennings in a National Theatre studio workshop of Congreve's comic classic *The Way Of The World*, in which the women took the men's parts and vice versa.

Abandoning that project, said Shaw, was "quite a relief."

"We all left after about three days, and had a glass of champagne," she said.

Shaw returns to the Congreve comedy playing the central woman, Millamant, in an upcoming national revival, opening Oct. 19.

### Record companies pump up the volume on British pop

By Leslie Adler

*Reuter*

LONDON — More than 30 years after the Beatles made British pop an international phenomenon, the music scene in Britain is once again reverberating to a

popular beat.

Music companies such as Polygram's Island Records and Thorn EMI's EMI Music are investing huge sums to promote British acts and hundreds of thousands of dollars on live tours. The investments are paying off in a wave of top-selling albums.

British pop music never died, of course. But from the mid-1980s through to the early 1990s the enormous success of American grunge artists such as Pearl Jam and Nirvana turned British pop acts into bit players on the musical stage.

"In the U.K. there is a renaissance in British pop music," said David Hughes, a spokesman for EMI Music. "I think we're enjoying the healthiest period we have had in a long time."

The renewed popularity of British groups is, as much as anything, a reaction to the success of American acts.

"American music dominated the culture (at) the beginning of the 90s. People had enough of that," said Maconie.

Since the early 1990s, British pop has been making a comeback, with groups such as Blur and Oasis displacing American acts at the top of the British charts.

The few years after punk, the early 80s, the middle, late 80s, it was a British desert," said Stuart Maconie, a British music writer for publications such as Q.

Blur, one of the hottest "Britpop" groups and marketed by EMI's Parlophone label, last year saw its album *Parklife* sell more than 900,000 copies in Britain alone.

Help, has sold 250,000 copies in Britain since its release on Sept. 9 and another 100,000 copies in Europe.

Blur was the first to say "we don't want to know what's coming out of America. We don't care about Pearl Jam. We don't care about Nirvana," he said.

Mark Marot, managing director of Island Records, whose artists include Pulp and Ireland's U2, said the dominance of American acts allowed British groups to experiment and develop a unique sound.

"Over the last five years, the received wisdom has been that the U.K.'s talent has been on the wane," Marot said. "In a peculiar way that meant artists and record companies took a

step back from this blank package that 'you must break in America'."

"I am quite certain that British music is once again much more original than it was perhaps five years ago, perhaps three years ago," he said. "It's really a rediscovery of Britishness."

Just what makes this music distinctively British?

"In Blur's case they sing in almost exaggerated British accents," said David Hughes, a spokesman for EMI Music. "The music is very melodic in a way that Pearl Jam's or Nirvana's music isn't."

"The strongest form of British music usually has got its roots in fairly straight forward melodic rhythm and blues," said Tony Crean, a spokesman for Go Discs, the record label that produced the Help charity album.

"American music dominated the culture (at) the beginning of the 90s. People had enough of that," said Maconie.

"The Beatles, the Rolling Stones, the Who, the Sex Pistols, Oasis and Blur — there's a line that runs through all those artists," said Crean.

Maconie said the new crop of British groups avoided the hopelessness and despair that characterised grunge. "I think the British bands are much more lighthearted... They have much more of a sense of humour."

For all the success of British groups in their home territory, they have had limited acclaim in the United States, which accounts for about 50 per cent of worldwide music sales.

"There's been such a rich vein of talent coming out of America that has been so

capable of satisfying American audiences that even the major record companies have not needed British music," said Island Records' Marot.

The nature of American radio and the importance of touring in the United States make it difficult for foreign acts to break there.

"It's a developed market for gigs," said Marot. "It seems to be no coincidence that the acts that are breaking that come from the U.K. Market — like the Cranberries, Bush, Live, Radiohead, Oasis, Blur — all of the acts are acts that play live."

A U.S. tour of two dozen dates costs about \$250,000 and a group often needs to repeat such tours two or three times.

Because U.S. radio stations favour a niche format, with stations focusing on specific genres such as country or rap, it is difficult for groups that do not fit an existing mould to get the air time that can bring record sales.

"It's not too early to say that British music is back on its feet again," said Marot. "But to say that... American music is on the wane and British music is going to rise up and take over again, I think it's far too early to say."

"Many of us feel the seeds are sown and we're going to work on it," he said. "But it might be three or four years before it becomes a reality."

Their new film *Dead Presidents* rises above race to tell a tale

## New method enables test-tube embryos to be screened for cancer

LONDON (AP) — British doctors are to use for the first time a method that enables them to identify whether a test-tube embryo will develop cancer in later life, the Daily Telegraph reported.

The paper said the test, which would take place before the embryo was implanted in the mother, opened the way to screening out embryos at high risk of cancer, notably breast and bowel cancer.

But Robert Winston, who led the team that developed the test at Britain's largest fertility clinic at Hammersmith Hospital in West London, warned

Monday that it would "cause some furore" when it was announced to the public.

"It raises quite serious ethical issues," he told the Telegraph.

"You would be screening for a disease that does not cause childhood death but death after the age of 30 or 40," he said.

The paper pointed out that screening out such individuals could impoverish the world. It cited the physicist Albert Einstein and the composer Franz Schubert as examples of individuals who did some of their greatest work before the age of 30.

Dr. Winston first developed the technique to identify the sex of an embryo so that parents who carried disorders that would affect only boys could ensure that female test-tube babies were transferred to the mother, according to the Telegraph.

The research team then extended the technique to deciding if the embryo carried a defective gene causing a hereditary disease.

They are now assessing the ethical and technical issues involved in the fertilisation of several embryos to be screened for genes linked to a high risk of colon cancer, according to the Telegraph.

cer and brain cancer.

"I think the general feeling is that it is justifiable if the parents want it, and there is a serious chance of death," Dr. Winston told the paper.

At present, genetic assessment of embryos is carried out after the embryo has been implanted, by sampling the amniotic fluid or by examining embryonic cells in the placenta, the paper said.

The new technique may help prospective parents avoid facing the possibility of an abortion in the event of a positive test for a cancer gene, according to the Telegraph.

Jordan Times, October 12, 1995

## Doctors split on whether to recommend obesity drug

ROCKVILLE, Maryland (AP) — Doctors on a government panel have failed to agree on whether the possible threat of brain damage should derail a new obesity drug.

An initial vote by an advisory committee for the Food and Drug Administration rejected 5-3 the drive by Interneuron to get its weight-loss drug Dexfenfluramine approved even though tests showed it helped people lose weight.

But an emotional plea by panel member Nemat Borhani to do something about American obesity prompted the committee to take another vote, this time on approving the drug in exchange for a guarantee from Interneuron to do massive studies on the first people who use it.

Because there were not enough members on the second vote, the matter was postponed. Though votes by advisory committees are not binding, the FDA usually follows the recommendation.

"I cannot live with my

conscience tonight," Mr. Borhani told the panel members after the first vote.

"We are dealing with a very severe epidemic of obesity," without current medical treatment.

Obesity, which is defined as being more than 20 per cent above one's ideal weight, is responsible for 300,000 deaths per year in the United States, and causes 20 million new illnesses per year.

Panel members opposed to approval said Interneuron had failed to provide, when

given the chance, better information on the risks involved.

Tests have shown the drug causes brain damage when given in very high doses to animals, prompting concern about its possible effects on the thousands who would likely use it.

The company said Dexfenfluramine would be sold at much lower doses — 10 to 20 times lower — than those given to the animals.

## Multiple sclerosis vaccine trial yields encouraging results

By Randi Hutter Epstein  
The Associated Press

LONDON — A very small Belgian trial suggests that a vaccine for multiple sclerosis made from a patient's own immune cells may help slow the progression of the crippling nerve disease.

Other experts were intrigued by the concept but skeptical that the vaccine would ever be a widely available cure.

The vaccine dramatically reduced the number of bouts of multiple sclerosis in eight volunteers traced for two years, said Dr. Jef Raus, one of the investigators at the Multiple Sclerosis Research and Immunology Unit in Diepenbeek, Belgium.

But he added he is "very cautious," because so few patients have been tested.

The difficulty about assessing new treatments for the disease is that it comes in bouts. It is difficult to know whether a

treatment is truly working or whether the patient would have had a few symptom-free years anyway.

The findings are published in the current issue of the Lancet, a medical journal.

Multiple sclerosis is a disease in which the patient's immune cells attack the nerves. No one knows why the body seems to turn against itself, nor is there a cure.

Immune cells target myelin, the cushioning sheath around nerve fibers. As myelin deteriorates, nerve signals go awry. Victims have trouble controlling their movements. Many patients have trouble walking. They may also suffer from blurred vision, slurred speech and tremors.

All too often, promising results from small experiments like this one do not pan out in large-scale trials.

The vaccine was made by removing a sample of

the patients' own immune cells, and then weakening the cells so they no longer work. In essence they are merely shells masquerading as defense cells.

The investigators grew these lame cells and injected a massive dose back into the patients.

Dr. Raus believes the presence of these non-working cells shuts down the body's own immune cell production. In essence, the vaccine fools the body into stopping its assault on the nervous system.

The concept is being tested in other diseases, including rheumatoid arthritis and diabetes.

Dr. Michael Lockshin, an multiple sclerosis expert with the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, said "this is one of a number of important immunological manipulations that both inform us about the mechanism of the disease and will possibly lead to something more direct."

"I suspect no widely available cure will result

from T-cell vaccination itself, but there may be T-cell products that can be used in one way or another," he added.

Researchers gave the eight volunteers three doses of the vaccine.

Two vaccinated patients did not suffer any bouts of the disease for at least two years after vaccination. Three patients, who had had 16 bouts of the disease in the two years prior to vaccination, suffered only three bouts during the course of the trial, said Dr. Raus.

The other three continued to have bouts of the disease. But researchers gave them another personalised vaccine made from different immune cells. After the second vaccine, the progression of the disease slowed, said Dr. Raus.

In comparison, eight unvaccinated patients with multiple sclerosis showed no improvement in their disease.

KANSAS CITY, Kansas (AP) — A 48-year-old Parkinson's sufferer underwent a new procedure in which an electronic device is implanted in a person's body to thwart the tremors, rigidity and other symptoms of the disease.

Pallidal stimulation has been performed in Europe since the 1980s, according to Judy Rosner, executive director of the United Parkinson Foundation in Chicago.

Thalamus stimulation has significantly reduced tremors in Parkinson's patients, but it does not improve the drug-induced side effects of involuntary movements, muscular rigidity and other symptoms, medical centre officials

said. Pallidal stimulation might help where thalamus stimulation does not.

Parkinson's is a progressive, degenerative disease of unknown origin that kills off dopamine-producing neurons. A low supply of dopamine triggers overactivity in the globus pallidus.

Shikles will switch on the pulse generator by rubbing a magnet over the implanted device. That will stimulate the pallidus and jolt nerve signals that cause the tremors and rigidity, the hospital spokesman said.

Hospital spokesman Randy Artwood said it was the first such procedure —

said.

"He had very marked improvement in his rigidity. His movements were much more fluid," said neurosurgeon Dr. Steven Wilkinson. An estimated 500,000 Americans have Parkinson's.

The disease causes Shikles' leg and stomach muscles to cramp painfully, and his arms and legs to flail uncontrollably.

While calling the procedure safe and noting it's reversible, Ms. Rosner cautioned, "by no stretch should it be seen as a cure or as ending progression" of the disease.

## Common diuretic might lessen epileptic seizures

By Deborah Zabarenko  
Reuters

WASHINGTON — A commonly prescribed diuretic drug shows promise in helping to block epileptic seizures, researchers reported.

The researchers cautioned, however, that the drug's anti-seizure properties have only been tested in the laboratory and only on samples of animal brain tissue, so any applications to humans would be premature at this point.

"It's too early to be applying this clinically," researcher Philip Schwartzkroin said, adding that epileptic patients "should absolutely respect

and go according to their doctor's prescriptions."

"Our study opens up another way of thinking about how epilepsy or seizures might be treated," Dr. Schwartzkroin said in a telephone interview from the University of Washington in Seattle.

The drug, Furosemide, is normally prescribed to rid the body of excess fluid through urination.

But in a study published in the journal *Science*, Furosemide was used to eliminate swelling in individual nerve cells, which researchers theorise is one factor in epileptic seizures.

Epileptic seizures occur when there is a fault in communication between nerve cells. Normal nerve cells communicate by sending tiny electrical signals back and forth.

"The idea that we stimulate on is that if one could disrupt this synchrony one might be able to reduce or block the seizure," Dr. Schwartzkroin said.

Synchrony is affected by how much space there is between nerve cells. If the cells swell up, which decreases the space between them, there is a greater likelihood of synchrony.

The diuretic drug appears to prevent the cells from swelling, thereby cutting down on synchrony and possibly blocking seizures.

Dr. Schwartzkroin said the next step for this research would be on live animals, with human tests far off.

## Exercise alleviates PMS mood states

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Women who exercise regularly suffer less from impaired concentration, negative emotions, behavioral change, and pain during premenstrual syndrome (PMS) than women who do not exercise, found a recent study in the *Journal of Psychosomatic Research*.

Researchers compared women who regularly exercise with healthy but generally non-exercising women drawn mainly from university undergraduates. Subjects filled out questionnaires assessing menstrual distress and overall emotions during, before, and after menstruation.

Women who exercised frequently felt better at all stages of their menstrual cycle. Women who engaged in regular, moderate, aerobic exercise experienced lower levels of anger, contempt, disgust, sadness, hostility, fear, shyness, and guilt. Positive mood states such as interest, joy, and surprise were unaffected by exercise.

Among physical and

## Norplant distributor studying drug

CLEVELAND (AP) — Five years after the U.S. government approved the contraceptive Norplant, the distributor has started an inquiry into the drug's long-term effects, a newspaper reported.

Researchers at Wyeth-Ayerst Laboratories asked for the study because of a lack of information, especially about the implant's

effects on teenagers, the newspaper said, quoting corporate documents.

The company wants to track many side effects of the small capsules surgically implanted in the upper arm to provide five years of continuous birth control.

More than 200 lawsuits over Norplant have been filed in the United States.

## ANSWERS BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. The OBELISK (Cleopatra's Needle) originally taken from Heliopolis, Egypt, and brought to England. The second obelisk taken to New York Central Park.
2. Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar.
3. The recording, on tape, of pictures.
4. A jelly made from seaweed and used for cultivating bacteria.
5. A rum-like spirit made by distilling the juice of sugar-cane.
6. Suttee.

## PUZZLES

(A) MENDELSSOHN.  
(B) The letter M

### COUCH POTATO FARE By Grace C. Pinkston

**ACROSS**

- Health report
- 4-Word, 4-letter border
- Repub.
- 2 Letters
- 10 Letters
- 14 Letters
- 17 Letters
- Short answer
- 18 Long word
- 20 Long word
- 21 Mid-word
- 22 Word
- 23 TV comedy show
- 25 German
- 26 Cricket
- 28 Rock word
- 29 Aztec jungle
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- 31 "To Tell the Truth"
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## What schools need: A liberal teacher's surprising answers

By William Raspberry

WASHINGTON — Albert Shanker won't dismiss the efforts at renewing, reforming and reorganising our schools. He'll stand with those who insist on more financing, tighter standards or better-trained, better-paid teachers.

But he believes these things don't have much to do with why so many of our children aren't learning.

And what does? The simple loss of discipline.

It may be an unexpected answer from the president of the American Federation of Teachers — at least if you expect union officials to support and exonerate their members while blaming their difficulties on others. But Mr. Shanker believes it is the right answer — and believes also that unless we deal with discipline none of the other reforms will make any difference.

"A lot of what we're seeing in the educational politics of the country, including the movement for choice and charter schools

and educational vouchers, is frustration with the government's inability to do the basic things that everybody knows need to be done — like ordinary discipline," he said recently.

"Parents want their children in schools where they can be safe and where there's not so much disorder that kids can't learn. And if we can't provide such a place, they say, 'give me a chance to take them somewhere else.' That's what the 'choice' movement is mostly about."

So where did discipline go? What caused the violence? Mr. Shanker doesn't mention television or movies or gangsta rap, though he surely believes all these play a role. He puts the blame much closer to home.

"The amount of disruption in our schools is much larger than it needs to be because it is tolerated," he said. "A second-grade youngster has an outburst — maybe he curses at the teacher, or throws something at another kid, and

nothing happens. At recess, he taunts his buddies, tells them how tough he is and how chicken they are. One kid, and then another, reacts to the challenge and pretty soon you've got a classroom that's unmanageable."

The same dynamic works with older children, he said. "If the schools aren't seen as taking it seriously when a kid comes to school with a gun," he said, "you'll soon see other kids coming to school with guns — in self-defence, of course. At first. Then they'll use them to intimidate, and worse. And once again, the result is an unmanageable school."

How had it? A majority of schools in the country are plagued with violence. There are some schools in Brooklyn and the Bronx where new teachers have lasted for as little as three days. But almost as important as outright violence in the growing incidence of substantial disruption. "At least in the worst cases of violence, students may be expelled," he said. "But when it is 'only' disruption,

teachers are forced to concentrate on one youngster, or two, and neglect the rest."

Mr. Shanker, whose union has started a campaign to restore order to schools, acknowledges that discipline "isn't the only piece" of the puzzle of academic failure, just an essential piece. It is also the one thing that private schools are free to enforce, which, Mr. Shanker argues, is one of the reasons for the growing interest in non-public schools.

The other major piece of the solution, he says, is the issue of standards, not the nefarious "each child must reach his or her potential" or the impossible "first in the world in math by 2000."

"What is needed are standards that relate to the children — that require some stretching but are still achievable."

But won't standards that "stretch" the slowest students bore the brightest, and those that challenge the brightest leave the slower students in a fog?

There is, says Mr.

Shanker, a way out: Tracking.

Again he gives the unexpected answer. Tracking has been so thoroughly castigated by Mr. Shanker's fellow liberals that hardly any moderate dares mention it.

"Parents want it," Mr. Shanker said.

"They remember being left out while teachers focused on the other kids, whether those other kids were brighter or slower. They don't mind tracking as long as it includes second chances, so you don't get locked in a slow track."

But suppose the lower tracks wind up full of minority youngsters?

"In the inner cities, most of the discipline cases will be minority children, but so

will the beneficiaries of lessened disruption. The same is true for tracking. In the suburbs, the racial disparities on tracking or dis-

cipline are a problem, but it's just something we have to face and deal with."

After all, he said, "Running away from it, tol-



The Washington Post

## Bosnia ceasefire set

(Continued from page 1)

The ceasefire initially was planned for Monday night but was postponed because gas deliveries had not resumed to Sarajevo. Tuesday, the government proposed another 24-hour delay to secure full restoration of utilities.

In another grim pre-truce\*

straggling into government-held territory.

Kris Janowski, spokesman for the U.N. aid agency, said expulsions were accelerating. About 6,000 people already have been expelled and up to 8,000 more were expected in the next few days.

Relief officials were particularly concerned about the fate of draft-age Muslim men being separated from their families.

move, Serbs were reported to be stepping up their campaign to purge areas they hold in northwestern Bosnia of all non-Serbs.

Red Cross and U.N. aid officials expressed alarm over reports of rape, murder, death threats and robberies of mainly Muslim refugees

## Eco's pendulum of opinion

PORTLY, bearded and bespectacled, fluent in English after many years of hopping back and forth across the Atlantic, the professor of semiotics stands out as boldly as the aquamarine Prince-of-Wales check jacket he is wearing. Umberto Eco is our only portmanteau European intellectual — a man who travels light and continuously, and who is as convincing writing wittily about the dilemmas posed by eating peas on planes with a plastic fork, as he is profound about the worldwide revival of fascism in the 1990s.

"I felt like poisoning a monk," is how he describes the genesis of his first novel, *The Name Of The Rose*, in 1980, which sold 10m copies and became a film starring Sean Connery, looking magnificent without a toupee. But since this astounding debut, achieved at the age of 48, Eco has not jumped on his own bandwagon. His next work of fiction, *Foucault's Pendulum*, appeared nine years later in 1989. And now, a mere six years after that, we have his third novel, *The Island Of The Day Before*.

"For this novel, the motivation was different. I wanted to write about nature, but I needed an image — something that would distinguish my novelistic enterprise from an academic text. I became fascinated by the 180° meridian — what we now call the international date line. So I went to the Fiji islands, and there I swam and snorkelled. Finally, however, the book turned out to be about someone who couldn't swim — until the 19th century few people could, not even sailors. And this is how I spent the next four years, forcing myself to learn swimming. I even found a swimming manual, written in 1697, with pictures showing you how to float."

Roberto della Griva, the Candide-like hero of *The Island Of The Day Before*, is washed up in the 17th-century South Pacific, not like Robinson Crusoe, on an island, but on an apparently deserted boat. The boat handily contains a telescope, a collection of plants and salads, clocks, kegs of grappa and fresh water, many beautiful birds as well as egg-laying fowls; and the Panglossian Jesuit, Father Caspar, a fellow castaway who wishes to find God's benign cosmology confirmed in nature. Neither of them can swim

to the nearby island, and the centre-piece of the book consists of a wacky Ecoesque series of dialogues about nature and reality, held by the side of the boat while Roberto receives swimming lessons.

Three months ago, in the wake of the Oklahoma bombing, Eco published a heartfelt autobiographical essay in which he recalled his own membership, as a young boy, of the Mussolini youth movement, and his fascination with the violence of communist partisans. His point was that surface phenomena may change, but that underlying attitudes do not. We should therefore not assume that fascism died with Hitler and Mussolini. "I wanted to get rid of the folklore," Eco explains. "Fascism has become synonymous with the trash art of leather fetishism. In reality, the same attitudes that created fascism still exist — a hatred of foreigners, a belief in violence, the extinction of individual rights. But we shall now have to deal with them in the different forms in which they are expressed — it won't be the same story this time round. And these fascists are everywhere now — in Russia, in Yugoslavia, in Italy, Germany, even in Britain, where the skinheads began, and the football hooligans."

Eco has always been ambivalent about the claims of technology, taking issue with contemporary gurus such as Marshall McLuhan, who believed that the age of electronic enlightenment had come. I wondered whether he browsed the Internet for pleasure. Did he believe Utopia was at hand? "I browse for some hours a week only," he says.

"The problem — it's a delightful one, really — is that you never know what you can find. There's too much of everything. In the end, the abundance of information can paralyse, just like the excess of food, sleep or love. A man in America has put photographs of his colo on the Internet, and I think this is remarkable — just imagine using cyberspace to exhibit your insides in public. The future of education will consist in telling people how to select or reject information.

I'm beginning to teach my students the art of decimation. How do you know something will be useful any more? How do you acquire enough information about information?"

This is better than the old Big Brother problem we had under communism, about whether you were being brain-washed or not, but I suppose it's a serious one, too."

Eco attacked Silvio Berlusconi when the latter used his concentration of media holdings to have himself elected prime minister. However, he now thinks that the problems of Italian television are deeper and less easily resolved than one man's ambitions. "I used to write about what I called hyper reality, meaning parallel or complementary versions of the world," he explains. "However, I didn't anticipate how a country could start to live through television. Everything in Italy happens on television now. It's not important to know what the president of the republic thinks, but what the television says he thinks. Of course, our television is terrible, but whether it's good or bad is beside the point in relation to its exaggerated importance. I feel that even if there were no such person as Silvio Berlusconi, a similar, perhaps even more grotesque, phenomenon would have arisen."

I wondered what period of history he would next choose as a diving ground. Was he slowly swimming forward in time, towards the present? "I don't know," he said, stuffing a number of semiological texts into a stout carrier bag. "I need to find another image; after that the fiction will come to me. But I do hate to get rid of my novels, and I feel abandoned when I have done so. For me, writing a novel is only a pretext. You spend six years finding out about a world that interests you. Then you hope that people will find it more interesting than looking at pictures of your colon."

At the end of *The Island Of The Day Before*, Eco's hero, still unable to swim properly, pushes himself into the water in the vain hope of cheating time by floating up or down the date line, therefore belonging neither to the past nor the present. There may be too much of everything in the late 20th-century world, but there are also things of which you can never get enough — among them, Umberto Eco.

The Sunday Times

## Jordan gearing up to attract investments

(Continued from page 12)

de East markets, the largest fund of its kind, F&C has yet to obtain permission to invest this fund in Jordanian stocks. F&C has managed to invest about \$1 million in the Amman exchange, but only through their global emerging equities fund. Omar Masri, Middle East fund manager at F&C, says that given access to the market he would consider allocating up to \$10 million to Jordan, or the equivalent of half the estimated \$20 million in foreign investment which has so far been placed in local equities.

There are plenty of economic reasons to make Jordan attractive to foreign investment. The government is delivering growth of more than six per cent year and an annual inflation rate of about four per cent, bettering the targets set under the IMF-sponsored reform programme. The trade deficit remains too high at \$2,000 million, most analysts agree, but exports are rising and slowly closing that gap. Jordan's foreign debt has also declined sharply, particularly since the signing of the peace treaty with Israel, by now about \$6,000 million, compared with a peak of \$8,000 million in 1989.

Yet Jordan's economic fortunes, and its attractiveness to investors, do not hinge

on sound statistics or new legislation. "Whatever happens as far as new laws are concerned, a cut in corporate taxes or, on paper at least, making it easier for foreigners to invest, this is still a rumour-and politically-driven market," says Khaled Masri, senior manager for international investment at Arah Jordan Investment Bank (AJIB).

King Hussein has exerted every effort during the past three years to create a political environment that ensures stability and guarantees the country's economic future. Relations with the Gulf are improving steadily after the nadir in 1991 following Jordan's failure to join the U.S.-led military coalition against Iraq. Strained ties with Saudi Arabia are now returning to ambassadorial level, and even icy relations with Kuwait are beginning to thaw.

More significant was the signing of the 1994 peace agreement with Israel. Economic ties are likely to grow only cautiously with the Jewish state, as questions are still being raised about the extent to which ties between the two sides should be normalised. However, the deal has paved the way for some debt for-equity swap that would transform Jordan's investment fortunes.

## Brotherhood reaffirms commitment

(Continued from page 1)

Palestinian cause and we support the Palestinians. But Hamas is an Islamic Palestinian faction that is directing its operations on the land of Palestine," he said.

"It is not in the interest of the Palestinian people and

from Islamic movements in other Arab countries.

"We did not face what our brothers in Egypt and Algeria had faced. The Islamic experience in Jordan is ... a model for Islamic action," he noted.

## Reports preempt easing of sanctions

(Continued from page 1)

Some of the information in the report had been revealed by Mr. Ekeus in August, but Mr. Ekeus told Reuters Iraq still had not filled in all the gaps.

The report confirmed press reports in August that Iraq had hidden a large nuclear and chemical weapons programme in 1990.

The UNSCOM report also said Iraq had made "formal, but essentially false, declaration" to the commission about "a hitherto secret offensive biological weapons programme."

That programme comprised large-scale production of biological warfare agents, filling and deploying missile warheads and aerial bombs with agents, and work of

considerable width and depth" on developing biological arms.

The report documented Iraq's "activities aiming at the acquisition of a considerable capability for the production of the advanced nerve agent VX," but said that whether the weapons were operable was still unclear.

VX is similar to the sarin gas used earlier this year in attacks on subways in Japan. It causes shortness of breath, blurred vision and ultimately violent spasms and death.

In addition, the IAEA report said the defection of Iraqi General Hussein Kamel in August provided "useful information" about the nuclear weapons programme.

The root of the problem is that Syria wants everything now before even starting to negotiate," the spokesman added.

"Damascus wants Israel to announce today that it is ready to withdraw from the Golan to the lines of June 4, 1967, and gives up the idea of having early warning stations.

No Israeli government will accept such conditions, before or after the elections," Mr. Assad stressed his

opposition to allowing Israeli early warning stations on the strategic Golan Heights, which Israel has occupied since 1967. "That symbolises the occupation," he said, calling for aerial surveillance instead.

Security arrangements to accompany any Israeli withdrawal from the Golan have become the main stumbling block to progress in the negotiations.

Mr. Assad, however, praised his U.S. counterpart Bill Clinton for his efforts to find a solution. "President Clinton is a man who wants a just peace," he said.

Mr. Assad explained that Syria would not take part in the forthcoming Middle East and North Africa economic summit in Amman because it regarded such meetings as a threat to Arabs and an

attempt to destroy the Arab League.

Lebanon is also boycotting the summit in Amman. Israel and about 60 other nations will attend.

The Syrian president said that economic development in the Middle East would be better served by countries such as Turkey, Iran, and Pakistan.

"Such summits are of no benefit. The direct aim is to normalise without (full) peace and to put pressure on those who did not. This is why we will not attend," Mr. Assad added.

"The Middle Eastern market is an economic and political concern for Israel because it will arrange the economy in a way that makes the road open more towards the enemies," he said.

Police spokesman Eric Bar-Chen said that of more than 5,000 prisoners held by Israel, 882 were set free on

## Israel

(Continued from page 1)

Tuesday — 507 jailed for security offences against the occupation and 375 convicted of crimes.

Mr. Bar-Chen said Israel was ready to hand over a further 84 convicted criminals to the PNA, bringing the total to 966, but the authority had yet to send someone to collect them.

Scores of freed prisoners returned home to a tearful welcome on Tuesday, even though the PLO said many would refuse to go in protest at what the PLO said was Israel's broken promise to free all women prisoners.

Mr. Bar-Chen said he knew of three convicted criminals who refused to go. A military spokesman said he was checking whether any prisoners jailed for security offences had also refused to go in protest.

## Iran cuts imports to pay foreign debt, diplomats say

DUBAI (R) — Iran has slashed imports from its major trading partners so that it can build up enough hard currency reserves to service its foreign debt, diplomats in Tehran say.

They said Iran has reduced purchases of goods from Germany, Japan, Britain, Italy and France by up to half this year so that it can begin to service a rescheduled annual debt of between \$5 billion and \$6 billion.

"The cutback in imports, which we saw last year, is continuing this year ... the country is keeping its import bill to the minimum," a Western diplomat in Tehran told Reuters.

Ability to service its total estimated debt of \$30 billion may determine whether Iran can secure further foreign investment to finance industrial expansion projects in its second five-year plan (1995-2000), diplomats say.

Iran managed to cut its imports to \$12.6 billion in the last Iranian year (March 1994-March 1995) from an unsustainable level of \$24 billion in 1991-1992, official

state figures show.

Although oil revenues increased between January and May because of higher oil prices — Iran is the world's second largest oil exporter — the clampdown on imports, particularly on manufactured goods, is still evident in the first few months of this Iranian year (March 1995-March 1996), diplomats say.

Iran's wish to build currency reserves is also seen in its enforcing strongest currency exchange laws that require most exporters to repatriate their hard currency earnings and a clampdown on currency smuggling out of the country.

Statistics from trade missions in Tehran show that the Iranian authorities are keeping tight controls over import levels despite warnings from local businessmen that a lack of imported spare parts and manufactured goods could hit local industry and hamper economic growth.

Imports from Germany, Iran's main Western trading partner, in the first four months of 1995 fell a further 25 per cent compared to the

same period last year to \$666 million, official embassy statistics show.

German exports alone fell 37 per cent in 1994 from 1993.

Japan's trade with Iran, mainly exports of machinery and equipment spare parts, has dropped by nearly half in the first six months of the year to \$350 million from \$661 million in the corresponding period in 1994.

French trade has fallen 10 per cent in the first half of the year to some \$300 million and Italian trade halved to \$124 million in the first three months of 1995.

British exports have held steady, according to statistics up to the end of July which show Iran imported \$118 million worth of British goods and services, compared to \$316 million in the same period last year.

Iran is also limiting imports from outside the major trading countries.

Last month parliament banned imports of soft drinks, chocolate and toys as non-essential goods.

## Arab Gulf economies set to grow in 1995 — study

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The economies of six Arab Gulf oil producers are projected to grow by around 2.1 per cent in 1995 because of reforms and improvement in crude prices, a bank study published in the UAE daily Al Khaleej has said.

The gross domestic product (GDP) of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is forecast to reach \$207.6 billion in 1995 compared with \$203.2 billion in 1994, showed the study by Henry Azzam, chief economist at the National Commercial Bank, the biggest bank in Saudi Arabia.

The study showed the economies of all member states would record positive growth rates after a decline in the GDP of some members in the previous year.

Saudi Arabia's GDP, which accounts for nearly a quarter of the total GDP of the Arab League's 22 members, would likely rise to around \$122 billion in 1995 from \$120.8 billion in 1994, Mr. Azzam said.

The UAE GDP is pro-

jected to grow to around \$38 billion from \$36.6 billion and Kuwait's to \$24.2 billion from \$22.9 billion. Bahrain, Oman and Qatar are also expected to record small growth rates.

Mr. Azzam gave no projections for oil prices but Gulf analysts expect them to average more than \$16 by the end of the year. This compares with \$15.5 in 1994 and \$16.33 in 1993.

Oil provides more than 80 per cent of the GCC's total income and 30-40 per cent of their GDP. The decline in crude prices over the past decade has slowed down Gulf economies and turned a budget surplus into a deficit.

Most GCC countries have launched privatisation programmes and other reforms to revive their economies. The reforms were coupled with cuts in state expenditure to contain the growing shortfall.

Mr. Azzam's figures showed the combined GCC deficit was slashed to a projected \$10.8 billion in 1995 from \$17 billion in 1994 and a record \$57.8 billion in 1991, when Gulf states made huge

payments to finance an international drive to liberate Kuwait from Iraqi occupation.

The decline was mainly due to a sharp cut in the Sandi deficit, which was slashed to \$4 billion from \$10.6 billion. Kuwait's shortfall was also trimmed to \$4.5 billion from \$4.9 billion.

The measures pushed down the combined GCC deficit to 5.2 per cent of the GDP in 1995 from 8.4 per cent in 1994. The 1995 figure was the lowest since 1989.

The GCC budgets over the past few years were of a contracted nature, which could be considered as the beginning of a tangible change in the policies of general expenditure and the government role in the economy," Mr. Azzam said.

"It is obvious the Gulf governments have decided to adopt the principle of 'spending within the available resources' to restore financial balance and put a brake on the racing deficit and debt," he added.

## IMF and World Bank pledge more help for member nations

WASHINGTON (R) — IMF and World Bank leaders pledged Tuesday to do more to help their 180 member nations cope with the vast changes sweeping across the world economy.

IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus told the meeting his organisation was working on ways to prevent and contain future Mexico-style economic crises, where billions of dollars can flee countries at the flick of a computer switch.

On the surface, the world economy has not looked brighter for a long time.

Growth in the industrial

countries is picking up after a pause earlier this year. Inflation is the lowest it has been in a generation. And many developing countries are doing better as well.

"World economic growth in 1995 will be at least as strong as in 1994, and 1996 could see the strongest growth in eight years," Mr. Camdessus said.

But the short-term outlook is clouded by a longer-term question — is the only superpower turning its back on the

rest of the world?

Eager to cut bulging budget deficits to ensure prosperity and freedom of responsibilities for fighting the cold war, the United States is turning its attention to domestic economic problems it has long ignored.

The immediate focus of concern at the annual meeting was the future of the International Development Association (IDA), an \$18-billion World Bank affiliate that lends money to the world's poorest nations at no interest charge.

Tight-fisted U.S. lawmakers are poised to slash U.S. contributions to IDA, and other rich nations are threatening to follow suit.

China has been trying to force lumbering state enterprises to go bankrupt, but has slowed its efforts amid fears that breaking the taboo from the days of central planning could spark mass unemployment and social unrest.

Debts of the 58 bankrupt firms totalled 3.2 billion yuan (\$385 million), while total assets stood at 1.87 billion yuan (\$227 million). Mr. Chen said. The bankrupt firms have found jobs for 99 per cent of their 53,000 employees, he added.

The government would exempt companies that merge from interest payments on loans or suspend interest to encourage mergers, he said.

A total of 7.79 billion yuan (\$938 million) in bank interest, or 3.13 per cent of unpaid principal and interest on loans, would be suspended or scrapped if all the companies concerned were to merge with other companies, he said.

In southern Jiangsu province, a debt-ridden state firm was put up for auction by a court in Donghai city, the legal daily said. The food company had bad debts \$10,000 yuan (\$37,349) and no way to repay it said.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin told the meeting that the Clinton administration would make its "utmost effort" to make sure the United States met its international obligations, but he added he could not promise results from Congress.

Government spokesman Francois Baroin vowed to resist foreign exchange markets, which he said were trying to damage the franc to push the government to trim budget deficits.

The markets, mainly British and U.S., wanted to start a speculative run on the franc. They wanted to send a message to the government which said: We do not want to see your deficits so high, make an effort and above all, don't give in to the public sector," Mr. Baroin said on French radio France Inter.

"Well, the government does not want to sacrifice its public sector to meet the interests of foreign investors," he said.

The public sector staged

Tuesday's 24-hour strike to protest against the government's refusal to grant a general pay rise.

Prime Minister Alain Juppe has insisted that civil servants' pay must be kept under control to trim the deficits and lay the groundwork for future economic growth and lower unemployment.

But financial markets are sceptical of his ability to bold the line on public sector wages and keep a promise to cut the budget deficit from five per cent to three per cent of gross domestic product in the next two years, analysts say.

In recent years France has made a habit of sniping at "Anglo-Saxon" currency speculators, who it accuses of trying to break the link between the franc and the German mark, the keystone of a future single European currency.

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OCTOBER 12-13, 1995  
HOROSCOPE  
RECAST FOR THURSDAY,  
OCTOBER 12, 1995  
By H. S. P. P. & Co.  
Cairo Register Astrologers  
LONDON

business  
Daily  
beat  
A review  
of economic news  
from the Arabic press

## Gas exists in huge quantities south of Al Rishah gas field

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL of the Natural Resources Authority (NRA), Fakhreddin Al Daghstani, confirmed a previous report carried by Al Dustour that huge quantities of gas exist to the south of Al Rishah gas field. The quantities, Dr. Daghstani said, may enable Jordan to operate all its power stations in the future by gas. The NRA chief pointed out that the National Oil Company is drilling wells in the new field which, along with the 5,000-square-kilometre Al Rishah field, is considered a concessionary area for the company for 50 years. Under the concession terms, the National Oil Company would get 50 per cent of the discovered gas. Dr. Daghstani indicated that Jordan's problems in searching for gas were related to advanced technology which the company would overcome from its gas sale income and from leasing its experience and its drillers to the countries interested in exploring for oil gas (Al Dustour).

JORDAN'S OUTPUT of olives this year is expected to be 75,000 tonnes of which 60,000 tonnes will be allocated for producing olive oil and 15,000 tonnes for olive preserves. According to a senior agricultural official, the plantation of olive trees in the Kingdom has reached 70 per cent of all fruit trees plantations and covered 800,000 dunums planted with eight million trees. The official indicated that Jordan's olive oil is of the best quality in the world since it is free of any chemical treatment (Al Dustour).

THE INDUSTRIAL Estates Corporation responded favourably to the request of the Amman Chamber of Industry to postpone raising rents of buildings and lands at the Sabab Industrial City by five per cent for two years. In this regard, the corporation's board of directors agreed to freeze the increase for 1996/1997 (Al Ra'i).

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THE FOOD and Environment Control Department at the Municipality of Greater Amman destroyed 5,656 tonnes of food unfit for consumption during the past three months. The department closed 691 shops for violating public health standards, issued 774 warnings and fined 2,033 establishments on health grounds (Al Ra'i).

THE FINANCIAL committee of the Municipality of Greater Amman (MoGA) is currently studying the 1996 budget which, according to sources, amounts to ID 62 million. Of the total, 60 per cent is for capital expenditure and 40 per cent is for recurrent spending. The deficit is about JD 5 million (Al Ra'i).

THE PALESTINIANS intend to submit eight projects at the economic summit in Amman. The projects will be in the sectors of transport, infrastructure, energy, industrial estates, vocational programmes and technology transfer. The Palestinian delegation to the summit will include 62 members headed by Yasser Arafat (Al Ra'i).

## Israel's Koor prepares global share offering

TEL AVIV (R) — Executives from Koor Industries, a powerhouse of Israeli industry, began a four-week road show Wednesday in preparation for the first global public share offering by an Israeli company.

Analysts predict the November offering will be a success.

The company is very well managed. It is the most likely to succeed among private Israeli companies," said Keith Phillips of Societe Generale Strauss Turnbull.

Because Koor, which means "melting pot" in Hebrew, is so diversified, "people

will feel they are buying a little bit of Israel," he said.

Koor—Israel's largest and most profitable holding company according to Dun Bradstreet—filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission for an offering of 6.95 million American depository shares, representing 1.39 million ordinary shares.

The shares will be priced in early November.

A possible pitfall is that

many potential investors

already own Koor shares

traded in Tel Aviv, Mr. Phillips said.

Koor plans to raise up to \$150 million from the offer-

ing, to be used to retire debt and expand in tourism, real estate and multimedia. It will also look for acquisitions abroad, especially Asia, in its core businesses: Building materials, telecommunications and electronics, chemicals, food and energy.

Smith Barney for the first time has been chosen to lead a public offering by an Israeli company, along with Lehman Brothers. UBS will manage the offering in Europe while Schroeder Wertheim, in Openheimer and BZW will act as co-managers.

The ADSS, representing 10 per cent of the company's market capitalisation, will be listed on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) and the SEAQ in London.

While some 50 Israeli companies are listed on Wall Street, most are traded over the counter.

Analysts say the Koor offering will be a test case for other Israeli companies wishing to venture into foreign markets.

"Another failure will not

be good news," Mr. Phillips said.

as Tel Aviv. Koor's offering follows recent failures by other prominent Israeli companies to issue shares for the first time abroad.

The Israeli market believes

Koor will be different.

The recent purchase by Shamrock Holdings, the investment arm of the Disney family, of 22.5 per cent of Koor, signals "to the world market that they made a due diligence and it is worth investing in Israel and in Koor," a financial source said.

In the past four months, Koor's market value has grown from \$900 million to \$1.2 billion. According to UBS the shares are still undervalued, trading at a price/earnings ratio of 9.4, compared with 18.5 average for the sector.

Analysts say the Koor offering will be a test case for other Israeli companies wishing to venture into foreign markets.

"Another failure will not be good news," Mr. Phillips said.

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has identified hundreds of projects worth more than \$3 billion which it hopes will be invested by potential arms suppliers under an offset scheme it introduced five years ago, officials said Wednesday.

The UAE Offset Group (UOG), set up in 1990, has drawn up plans for the nearly 600 local enterprises which could be carried out by foreign investors in participation with the local private sector, UOG chief, Badruddin, said.

The UOG deal flow contains an excess of 600 projects and project ideas proposed by offset contractors and local and international investors. This means UOG manages an excess of \$3 billion in offset obligations, he told an international investment conference in Abu Dhabi.

Mr. Badruddin gave no details of the projects but the UAE is giving priority to the introduction of

## UAE eyes \$3b in offset investment

offset coincided with plans by the UAE and other Gulf nations to bolster their armies following the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Billions of dollars are being spent every year on armament.

The UAE struck its biggest offset package with Giat Industries of France under their \$3.5 billion deal in 1993 to supply the Gulf state with 436 Leclerc battle tanks, some of which have already been delivered.

Giat has already opened an office in Abu Dhabi and identifies nearly 20 projects in industry, banking, farming and other sectors. Giat officials said the projects would be jointly owned with the UAE private sector.

Another venture involves a shipyard in Abu Dhabi to be set up by Newport News shipbuilding company as a pre-offset project in the hope the U.S. firm will win a major contract to supply the emirates with at least two frigates.

Officials have also spoken about plans to set up a \$1 billion company with the help of the U.S. Chase Manhattan bank to oversee offset projects and help foreign investors identify feasible sectors.

The introduction of the

Financial Jordan Times  
Markets in co-operation with  
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date 10/10/95		Tokyo Close Date 11/10/95	
	BID	OFFER	BID	OFFER
Sterling Pound*	1.5781	1.5796**		
Deutsche Mark	1.4181	1.4183		
Swiss Franc	1.1483	1.1513**		
French Franc	4.9595	4.9733**		
Japanese Yen	100.73	100.87		
European Currency Unit	1.2930	1.2944**		

\* USD for STG  
\*\* Sterling Opening 8 AM EAT - CMT

Exccuracy Interest Rates Date: 11/10/1995

Currency	Date: 11/10/1995			
	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.62	5.62	5.62	5.62
Sterling Pound	6.50	6.50	6.50	6.50
Deutsche Mark	3.81	3.81	3.81	3.81
Swiss Franc	1.93	2.00	2.00	2.00
French Franc	5.68	5.68	5.68	5.68
Japanese Yen	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
European Currency Unit	5.65	5.65	5.65	5.65

Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

PRECIOUS METALS Date: 11/10/1995

Metal	USD/Oz		JD/Gm*	
	BID	OFFER	BID	OFFER
Gold	344.75	7.50	5.43	6.10

\* JD/Kar

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 11/10/1995

Currency	BID		OFFER	
	U.S. Dollar	1.7120	1.7140	1.7140
Sterling Pound	1.1219	1.1225	1.1225	1.1225
Deutsche Mark	0.5018	0.5043	0.5043	0.5043
Swiss Franc	0.6187	0.6218	0.6218	0.6218
French Franc	0.1453	0.1440	0.1440	0.1440
Japanese Yen	0.7049	0.7084	0.7084	0.7084
Dutch Guilder	0.4481	0.4503	0.4503	0.4503
Swedish Krona	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Italian Lira	0.0443	0.0445	0.0445	0.0445
Belgian Franc	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000

\* Per 100

Other Currencies Date: 11/10/1995

Currency	BID		OFFER	
	U.S. Dollar	1.8720	1.8800	1.8800
Lebanese Lira	0.04345	0.04445	0.04445	0.04445
Saudi Riyal	0.1995	0.1910	0.1910	0.1910
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3030	2.3610	2.3610	2.3610
Qatari Riyal	0.1944	0.1956	0.1956	0.1956
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2180	0.2180	0.2180
Qatari Riyal	1.8450	1.8500	1.8500	1.8500
UAE Dirham	0.1933	0.1943	0.1943	0.1943
Greek Drachma	0.2920	0.3245	0.3245	0.3245
Cypriot Pound	1.5175	1.5880	1.5880	1.5880

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

## Newcomer Philippoussis downs Edberg

TOKYO (AP) — Newcomer Mark Philippoussis of Australia blasted Stefan Edberg off the court 6-0, 6-2 Wednesday in the second round of the \$1 million Seiko Super Tennis tournament.

Edberg's slices and touch volleys weren't able to stop the 1.94-metre, fast-moving 18-year-old, who had two speeds on lightning serves and booming groundstrokes: hard and harder.

Edberg, a 29-year-old Swede who was once World No. 1, and a two-time champion here, has slipped to 20th in the rankings and was seeded fifth. His next match will be his 1,000th in 12 years as a professional.

"He was entranced today," Edberg said of his opponent, whom he beat in a tough four-setter at the Australian Open earlier in the year. "He was playing like from another planet."

Philippoussis, 100, felt "very good" with his game and said his goal was to finish the year ranked in the top 50.

"The way I'm playing now, there's no reason why I can't play with the top players and beat them," he said, noting that he's overcome Todd Martin, the sixth seed here, at a tournament in Scottsdale, Arizona, earlier this year.

Martin was broken twice and dropped the first set Tuesday but fought back to overcome England's Jeremy Bates, 3-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Martin mixed serve-and-volley tennis with well-placed groundstroke passing shots to move into the third round against Henrik Holm of Sweden.

Holm served and volleyed his way on the fast indoor carpet over 12th seed mark Woodforde of Australia 4-6, 6-1, 7-6 (7-3).

Top seed Michael Chang easily handled Dick Norman of Belgium, 6-3, 6-4.

Former French Open champion and third seed Sergi Bruguera also had an easy time, handing world No. 134 Leander Paes a 6-3, 6-0 defeat in which he moved the Indian around almost at will during the second set.

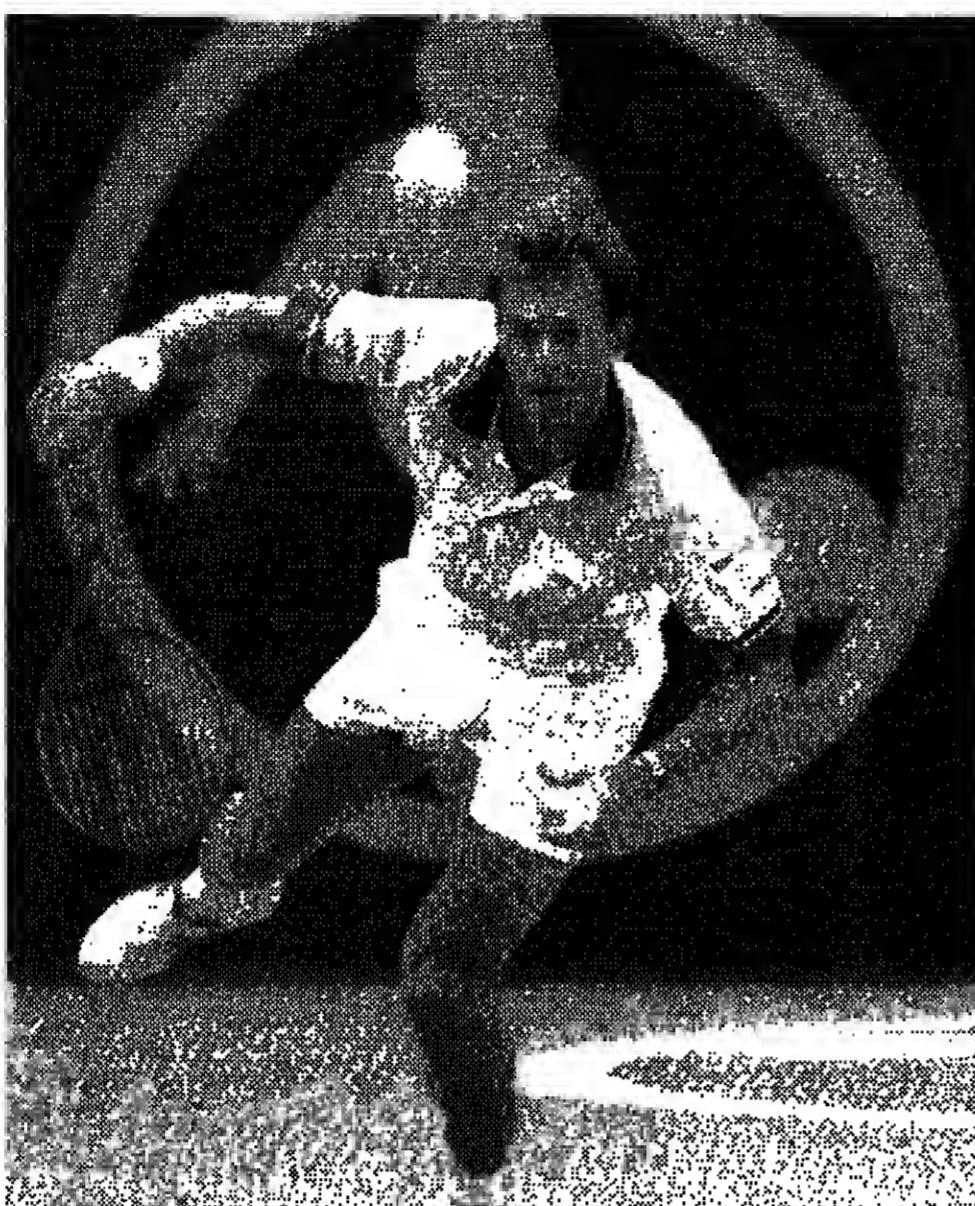
Philippoussis, in his first full year on the professional tour, last week reached a career-high rank of 60 after losing in the finals to Chilean left-hander Marcelo Rios in a tournament in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Rios, a slight, pony-tailed 19-year-old who leaves the ground on both right- and left-handed groundstrokes, lost Wednesday to American journeyman Jonathan Stark, 6-7 (6-8), 6-4, 6-4. Rios, ranked 27th and the 10th seed here, cursed himself disgustedly after he was unable to convert two break points in the final game of the match.

Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands, the seventh seed, fell to Hendrik Dreeckmann of Germany, 6-7 (7-5), 6-4, 6-2.

In the day's first matches, ninth seed Alexander Volkov of Russia beat Dutchman Fernon Wijher, 7-5, 6-2, and 11th seed Brett Steven of New Zealand overcame Cristiano Caratti of Italy, 6-4, 6-2.

Steven and Philippoussis faces each other in the third round.



Fifth seeded Stefan Edberg of Sweden concentrates on his serve during his second round match against Mark Philippoussis (Reuters photo)

## Match ends when Kasparov agrees to a draw

NEW YORK (AP) — World Chess champion Gary Kasparov drew the 18th game of his championship match against Viswanathan Anand in only 12 moves Tuesday, winning the monthlong contest and the \$900,000 first prize.

The fight for the world chess crown actually was over on Monday, when the game ended in a draw, giving Kasparov a lead of 10 to 7. He needed 10.5 points to win the 20-game match. In the event of a 10-10 tie, Kasparov would have kept his title but been forced to split half the \$1.35 million prize money with Anand.

Kasparov, with the advantage of the white pieces, played for less than 13 minutes Tuesday before reaching the draw that secured his victory, 10.5 points to 7.5.

"I hope you all had a lot of fun with the event, especially today's nail-biting finish," Anand said laughing at the prize-giving ceremony on the 107th floor of the World Trade Centre, where the match began Sept. 10.

Anand will receive \$450,000 from the Professional Chess Association, which sponsored the match.

Kasparov agreed that the rapid end to the game "could be disappointing to the public."

"The match for the title was over yesterday," the 32-year-old Russian said. "We played four games a week ... and we are both exhausted."

The 20-game series started with a record-



Title holder Garry Kasparov of Russia (left) shakes hands with challenger Viswanathan Anand at the end of the Intel World Chess Championship (Reuters photo)

breaking series of eight draws. Anand won the ninth game, but Kasparov hit back immediately, crushing his opponent in the 10th game. He then won the 11th game after Anand made what experts described as "a hideous blunder."

Anand's error came in a position in an endgame that experts said was likely to end in a draw. After thinking for only a minute, Anand — known in Spain as "Vishy the quick one" — saw a chance to win and moved a knight

into Kasparov's position. Kasparov, playing black, lashed out with a rook sacrifice to win two pawns and regain the rook. Facing a hopeless position, Anand resigned two moves later.

Anand recovered to draw the 12th game, but went down in the 13th and 14th, leaving himself in a hopeless match situation. Kasparov was able to coast home with a series of draws in the final four games.

At the right moment,

he took his chances and I didn't," Anand said. "that made the difference."

Experts said the 25-year-old Indian never fully recovered from the shock of his blunder nor regained his psychological balance against his experienced opponent.

Kasparov said his victory in New York would be nearly as memorable as his first championship win, in 1985. He has successfully defended his title five times since then.

Kasparov said he was

pleased that, unlike previous encounters with arch-rival Anatoly Karpov, this match had "no animosity."

"I'm sure we are going to stay friends," he said.

intel, the computer chip maker based in Santa Clara, California, sponsored the championship.

Kasparov also said the match an important breakthrough for the commercial sponsorship of chess. "The era of professional chess has started," he said.

## Murphy makes winning return

CHEPSTON, Wales (R) — Jump jockey Declan Murphy made a victorious return to the saddle on Tuesday — 17 months after a sickening fall left him in a coma and fighting for his life.

He partnered the Geoff Lewis-trained Jibreel to victory in a seven-furlong (1.4-kilometre) flat V jump jock-

ey's challenge race. The 28-year-old Irishman came back to a hero's reception after making all the running on the heavily hacked 3-1 favourite to win by three-quarters of a length.

"Words can't describe how I feel," said Murphy. "I've never thought there was a feeling like this in my life. I

just don't want to set off the cloud I'm on. What felt like a dream for 17 months has just become reality. I've achieved some good victories in my life but nothing like this."

Murphy fractured his skull in five places when he was kicked by his mount after falling at baydock last May.

## No place for \$9.6m striker

OSLO (R) — Expensive striker Les Ferdinand will not even be on the England substitutes' bench for Wednesday night's soccer friendly against Norway.

After losing out to Alan Shearer on Tuesday in the

tussle to spearhead Terry Venables' attack, Ferdinand was not among the five substitutes named on Wednesday.

Tottenham's Teddy Sheringham was preferred up front, despite scoring just

## Americans draw Mexico in Davis Cup first round

bottom half.

"From an interest point of view, Mexico is a good draw for us," said United States Tennis Association President Les Snyder. "You never know about the outcome, but we're happy with the draw."

Russia,

which faces the

United

States

in

the

first

round

of

the

Davis

Cup

in

1991

to

be

at

home

against

Belgium

in

1992

to

be

at

home

against

Germany

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1993

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2002

to

## Sports

## Promoter Don King's trial begins

81  
in contrast, the American  
team with a team led  
by Agassi and No. 2 seed  
Suzanne Lenglen was likely to be placed  
in the southwestern United  
States. He said a team com-  
posed before the final  
with current captain  
Mike Gullikson reported  
to continue the competition  
from the world group  
and pairing pair Austria  
South Africa, Denmark and  
Hungary at the  
Second round matches are  
scheduled for Sept. 20-22 and  
finals Nov. 24-Dec. 1

King has pleaded not guilty  
to charges of filing a fraudulent  
insurance claim after a  
1991 title bout between Julio  
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Brazier was cancelled.

The 12-person jury consists  
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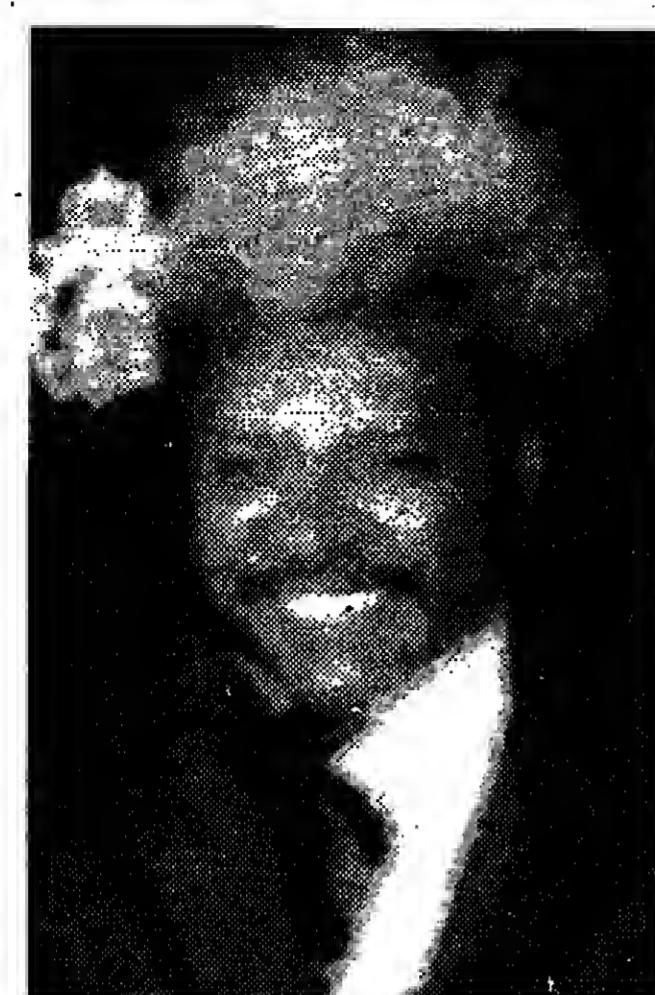
King filed a \$350,000 claim  
with Lloyds of London, the  
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world champion. King  
allegedly lied when he said  
the fees were not refundable.

If convicted, the 62-year-  
old King could receive up to  
five years in prison and up to  
\$250,000 in fines on each of  
the nine counts. King was  
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1960s after being convicted  
on manslaughter charges.

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The Justice Department  
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King filed a counter com-  
plaint against Maffia with



Don King

New York's Board of Regents, which licenses accountants, blaming Maffia for any crimes that might have occurred. The board of Regents exonerated Maffia after an investigation.

In 1967, King was convicted of manslaughter for  
stomping Sam Garrett to  
death in Cleveland. King was  
convicted and served a year in prison.

a bookmaker at the time and  
Garrett worked for him. King  
also killed a man in 1954, but  
the killing was ruled self-  
defence.

King also was indicted for  
tax evasion in 1985, but was  
acquitted. His secretary at  
the time, Constance Harper,  
was convicted and served a  
year in prison.

"I was thinking of leaving

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## Duncan Ferguson jailed for head-butt

EDINBURGH, Scotland (AP) — Scotland and Everton striker Duncan Ferguson began serving a three-month jail sentence Wednesday for head-butting another player.

Ferguson, 23, becomes the first international player in British soccer to be jailed for an on-field incident.

A three-judge panel rejected Ferguson's appeal and ruled the appropriate punishment was a jail sentence.

"We have reached the view  
we would not be justified in  
interfering with that sentence," the appeals court ruled after a 55-minute hearing.

"In our opinion, in all the circumstances, the sentence  
of three months' imprisonment  
was intended to be an effective punishment and a  
deterrent to others. It cannot be described as excessive."

The jail sentence had been imposed in Glasgow in May. Ferguson was freed on bail pending Wednesday's

Ferguson showed no obvious emotion when the decision was announced.

Ferguson, playing for Glasgow Rangers at the time, head-butted John McStay of Raith Rovers during a Scottish Premier Division match last April.

It was Ferguson's fourth conviction and was committed when he was on probation for a previous offence.

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## 3 soccer stars, businessman charged with match fixing

SOUTHAMPTON, England (AP) — Three Premier League soccer stars and a Malaysian businessman appeared in court on match-fixing charges Wednesday in England's biggest corruption scandal in 30 years.

Southampton goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar, Wimbledon goalkeeper Hans Seger, former Aston Villa striker John Fashanu and businessman Heng Suan Lim are accused of taking part in a conspiracy to rig the results of two Liverpool matches.

All four were released on conditional bail until Dec. 1.

They are charged with conspiring between Feb. 1, 1991, and March 15, 1995 "with others known and unknown, corruptly to give and corruptly to accept gifts of money as inducements improperly to influence the outcome of football matches or as rewards for having so done."

Grobbelaar, the former Liverpool goalkeeper, is charged with accepting £40,000 (\$63,000) from Fashanu in London on Nov. 25, 1993 for fixing the outcome of the Nov. 21 Newcastle-Liverpool game. Liverpool lost 3-0.

Grobbelaar is also charged with accepting £2,000 (\$3,000) from his former Zimbabwean business partner Christopher Vincent on Nov. 3, 1994 at Southampton "for improperly influencing the outcome of a football match or matches."

Segan, 33, Wimbledon's Dutch goalkeeper, is charged with receiving £19,000 (\$30,000) from Fashanu in London between Oct. 21, Oct. 25, 1994 to fix the outcome of the Oct. 22 Wimbledon-Liverpool match. Liverpool won 3-0.

Fashanu is charged with making the two payments.

The three players and the Malaysian businessman made their first appearance in Southampton magistrates' court.



Southampton's Bruce Grobbelaar (left) and Aston Villa's striker John Fashanu embrace as they arrive at the Magistrates Court (Reuters photo).

They spoke only to give their name, age and address.

Outside the courthouse, Fashanu and Grobbelaar greeted each other warmly with a hug.

All four were bailed on condition they do not contact prosecution witnesses Vincent or John Troup, the Sun journalist who first reported the allegations.

Fashanu's wife, Melissa Kassa-Mapsi, 29, was originally arrested and charged with the four men, but the Crown Prosecution Service has dropped charges against her.

The charges carry a maximum penalty of seven years in jail and/or an unspecified fine.

The accusations represent the biggest match-fixing scandal in English soccer since 1965, when three top flight

players were jailed for accepting money to rig results.

Grobbelaar and the others were arrested in dawn raids on their homes last March following a four-month investigation into alleged bribes involving an Asian gambling syndicate.

They were charged with conspiracy on July 25.

Of the three players charged, Grobbelaar is the most prominent. He spent 13 seasons with Liverpool and helped the club win 13 titles, including five league championships and the European Champions Cup. He has also been a standout for Zimbabwe's national team and is considered a national hero in the African country.

Fashanu has retired from soccer after a series of injuries and is now a host of the popular television series "Gladiators."

## Renovations raising ruckus in Atlanta

ATLANTA, Georgia (AP) — Opening statements began after the jury was selected on Tuesday in the mail fraud trial of boxing promoter Don King at a New York federal court.

King has pleaded not guilty to charges of filing a fraudulent insurance claim after a 1991 title bout between Julio Cesar Chavez and Harold Brazier was cancelled.

The 12-person jury consists of nine women and three men. Four alternates — three women and a man — were also selected.

King filed a \$350,000 claim with Lloyds of London, the British based insurance giant, for what was termed "non-refundable training expenses" paid to Chavez, the world champion. King allegedly lied when he said the fees were not refundable.

If convicted, the 62-year-old King could receive up to five years in prison and up to \$250,000 in fines on each of the nine counts. King was sent to prison in the late 1960s after being convicted on manslaughter charges.

The Internal Revenue Service also is investigating allegations that King helped foreign fighters evade paying taxes in the United States and that King's promotional firm filed false tax statements.

The Justice Department has probed King's dealings for two years. The investigation began when King's former chief financial officer, Joseph Maffia, filed civil affidavits against King. Maffia agreed to cooperate with the Manhattan U.S. attorney's office.

King filed a counter complaint against Maffia with

town anyway, but this just pushed me over the edge," computer analyst John Obermeier said.

In Lausanne, Switzerland, China's sports minister met Tuesday with IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch but there was no word on whether Beijing plans to bid for the 2004 games.

"It's going to get a little worse before it gets better," city traffic planning overseer Sandra Jennings said.

"Believe it or not, most people seem to understand why all this is going on. They just want to know why they can't get where they want to go."

The reason is because workers are digging up the street or closing down car lanes to erect Olympic support facilities. Most of the work is within a 1.6-kilometre downtown area where the greatest number of Olympic events will be contested.

"We will work through this," organisers spokesman Dirk Yarbrough said. "The only way we can satisfy the great majority of the people is to put on a dynamite Games."

Polis have found support dwindling for the notion of the Olympics being a good idea for Atlanta as daily life has become more difficult. Add major highway construction and national attention for the Braves baseball team and the problems are clear as time ticks away before the world arrives.

"You know what it feels like?" asked lawyer Rick Asbill. "It's like when you are in college and you wait until the last minute to start cramming for the exam."

"It makes you think about renting your house and getting out of town."

Many are doing just that, with nearly Nashville making a vacation pitch to residents here to escape the Olympic mayhem. Some apartment dwellers are being forced to move out so landlords can rent at much higher rates during the Games.

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the world to go to college and get a degree in accounting."

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# Jordan gearing up to attract foreign investments

By Edmund Blair  
MEED

FOR THREE days in mid-September Amman played host to some of the men and women who are credited with moving the world's financial markets. Delegates from 57 North American pension funds, representing some \$500,000 million under management, met in the Jordanian capital and were taken on a tour of Jordan's most promising manufacturing ventures, such as the electronics and household appliances factory of Middle East Industrial Complex (Goldstar) and El Zay Ready Wear Manufacturing.

The September conference attracted none of the media attention that will inevitably surround another meeting being held

in the Jordanian capital at the end of October: the Amman economic summit. The summit will be the international stage for Jordan to show the world how far it has come since the debt crisis of the late 1980s. It will be an opportunity to put up for scrutiny the raft of legislation the Jordanian Parliament has worked on recently to further open up the economy. Under the auspices of King Hussein, the October gathering will be attended by, among others, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Russia's Foreign Affairs Minister Andrei Kozyrev and Shimon Peres, the foreign affairs minister of Israel. But all the ceremony of the summit will be for nought if investors like the group of foreign pension fund managers are not impressed by the govern-

ment's efforts. During the past few months, ministers, parliamentary committees and the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament have worked hard to put together a package of measures that will reform the country's tax and investment codes and create a more attractive investment environment. The most important stage was achieved on Sept. 18, when the Upper House of Parliament approved the new investment law, paving the way for ratification by the King. The law will become effective in October.

#### Incentives

The code provides incentives for investors in the form of tax exemptions, which are weighted in favour of less developed areas. An institution will be set up with the

task of encouraging investment and speeding up the process of registering and licensing new projects. The law also contains a commitment that all investment proposals will receive a reply from the higher council for investment, a body made up of ministers and business representatives, within 30 days of application.

"The law will promote efficiency and credibility," says Rajai Kosous, chief economist at Jordan Investment & Finance Bank. "If approval is not given then there are other processes to explain the motives. It will be more transparent."

The law also aims to ease the way for greater foreign investment, which mainly covers non-Arab investors. "The non-Jordanian investor will enjoy equal treatment under this law to the Jordanian investor," according to

article 24 of the law. A bylaw, which is due to be drawn up and passed by Parliament before the end of the year, will outline in detail any restrictions on the proportion of foreign ownership allowed and is likely to include a 49 per cent cap on the foreign stake in indirect investment made in listed companies.

The same bylaw will also spell out a simplified mechanism for foreign investors to obtain permission to trade on the local stock exchange. The existing system, which involves each application passing through several tiers of authority including the prime minister's office, has proved a constant source of frustration to prospective investors.

Under the new system, each application will require approval from the Amman Financial Market, a non-resident custodial account with one of three local banks offering the service, and then the foreigner will be free to invest.

of the telecommunications sector, including privatising the state-owned Telecommunications Corporation.

For some foreign investors keen to invest in Jordan, this legislative action has come not a moment too soon. In fact, several foreign fund managers argue that Jordan's failure to act earlier has already left the country out of the first wave of investment which has already flowed into more open Arab markets during the past two or three years, including Morocco, Egypt, Tunisia and Oman.

A good illustration of the difficulties are those experienced by the Foreign & Colonial (F&C) Emerging Middle East Fund, which was set up in 1994 with the support of the International Finance Corporation. With capital of \$42 million dedicated to Mid-

(Continued on page 7)



TASTING FREEDOM: Palestinians released from Israeli prisons kiss the ground as they enter the Gaza Strip across the Nahal Oz crossing. Israel freed nearly 900 prisoners this week as a part of the autonomy accord it signed with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Washington on Sept. 28. Nearly 5,000 Palestinians remain in Israeli jails (see page one) (AFP photo)

## Beirut leaders agree to extend Hrawi's term, Assad reports



BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's political leaders have agreed to extend President Elias Hrawi's six-year term which expires next month, Syrian President Hafez Al Assad said in remarks published on Wednesday.

Mr. Assad's remarks, which angered exiled Christian Lebanese leaders, appeared to indicate that the thorny presidential issue has been resolved in favour of extending Mr. Hrawi's term rather than holding an election in November.

Syria's 35,000 troops in Lebanon make it the country's ultimate power broker and few political decisions are taken in Beirut before consulting with Damascus.

"In general, everybody was with the extension. All three, the president, Parliament Speaker (Nabil Berri) and Prime Minister (Rafik Al Hariri)," Mr. Assad told Egypt's Al Ahram newspaper in an interview published simultaneously by the Beirut daily Al Safir.

Government sources in Beirut say Syria prefers to stick with Mr. Hrawi as a known friend while it confronts serious regional problems and unfinished peace talks with Israel.

Opponents, particularly in the Christian minority who resent Syrian influence in Lebanon, see the proposal as a threat to democracy and say there are no exceptional circumstances that forbid holding regular presidential elections.

"Lebanon has become a Syrian colony in reality," Raymond Edde, a widely respected right-wing Christian and self-exiled head of National Bloc party, commented from Paris on Mr. Assad's declaration.

Former President Amin Gemayel, also exiled in Paris, said the statement showed the gap between Lebanon's leaders and the people "the majority of

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Egyptian faces trial under new press law

CAIRO (AFP) — The editor of a Muslim fundamentalist newspaper is to become the first Egyptian journalist to face trial for defamation under a tough new law raising the maximum penalty to 15 years imprisonment. Magdi Hussein, editor of the bi-weekly Al Shabaab, will appear in court in Cairo to face charges that he defamed the son of Egyptian Interior Minister General Hassan Al Alfie, legal sources said Wednesday. Mr. Hussein was questioned in August by an investigating magistrate after Mr. Al Alfie complained about a story which, without naming him, accused him of insulting the manager of a Cairo hotel, the sources said. The editor said he was not seeking to defame anybody but simply wanted the interior minister to inquire into the facts of the case. The trial date has not been fixed yet.

### Palestinian shot within hours of release

NABLUS (AFP) — A Palestinian activist was shot and seriously wounded in the West Bank town of Nablus on Wednesday less than 24 hours after his release from Israeli jail, Palestinian sources said. A group of young gunmen, saying they belonged to the Fatah Hawks, came to where Said Kalbuneh was staying on Tuesday after his release. They dragged him outside and shot the 25-year-old fellow Fatah activist at close range, the sources said. Mr. Kalbuneh, who spent two years in jail for anti-Israeli activities, was one of around 900 Palestinian prisoners released on Tuesday under the West Bank self-rule accord with Israel. It was the latest in a series of violent incidents between rivals in Nablus, from where Israeli troops are to be withdrawn before the end of 1995. Tension has mounted as self-rule nears for the town of 105,000 people. Another Fatah Hawk, Nai Shabita, was kidnapped on Sept. 10 and shot in the band before being released.

### Iraq returns remains of alleged PoW

KUWAIT (AP) — Iraq has returned the remains of a prisoner who allegedly died after his capture in Kuwait during the seven-month Iraqi occupation of the emirate, the national committee for the missing and the Prisoners of War (PoWs) said Wednesday. A committee official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told the Associated Press the remains of the prisoner were delivered a couple of months ago through the International Committee of the Red Cross. The government committee is in the process of verifying the remains by DNA testing in a number of Western countries, including the United States and Britain. He said Iraq has also given information on where two other prisoners allegedly were buried in Kuwait. The official would not provide any further details.

### Mentese protests Kurds' Nobel nomination

ANKARA (AP) — A Turkish cabinet member denounced the nomination of a jailed Kurdish politician for the Nobel Peace Prize, saying she might be prevented from receiving her prize if she won. A Turkish daily reported Wednesday, Leyla Zana, who was sentenced to a 15-year jail term on charges of Kurdish separatism, is considered one of the five leading candidates for the peace prize. Asked whether Ms. Zana would be able to receive the prize in prison, Interior Minister Nahit Mentese said, "I don't think so." The Turkish daily news reported. "But giving the award to someone who has not denounced terrorism, who is jailed for crimes related to terrorism, is murder." Mr. Mentese was quoted as saying. The Nobel Peace Prize will be announced Friday. Ms. Zana, a member of the defunct pro-Kurdish Democracy Party, was imprisoned along with seven other Kurdish deputies in March 1994.

## 4 Americans, Dutchman win Nobels in chemistry, physics

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Four Americans and a Dutch scientist won Nobel Prizes Wednesday for research into the Earth's protective ozone layer and studies of sub-atomic particles.

The chemistry prize, for the ozone work, went to Mario Molina of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, F. Sherwood Rowland of the University of California-Irvine and Paul Crutzen of the Max-Planck Institute for Chemistry in Germany.

"Thanks to our good scientific understanding of the ozone problem — and very largely to Crutzen, Molina and Rowland — it has been possible to make far-reaching decisions on prohibiting the release of gases that destroy ozone," said the citation from the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

Although ozone is considered a pollutant at ground level, it protects the Earth from the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays at high altitudes.

The physics prize went to Martin L. Perl of Stanford University and Frederick Reines of the University of California-Irvine for work in sub-atomic particles.

Dr. Perl and Dr. Reines discovered "two of nature's most remarkable sub-atomic particles" — the tau and the neutrino, their Nobel citation said.

In the mid-1970s, Dr. Perl discovered the tau, a heavier cousin of the electron. The tau is highly unstable and decays in other particles in less than a trillionth of a second.

Neutrinos stream out from the sun and star explosions called supernovas, making it possible to probe the innermost regions of stars. They

are produced along with energy, and to understand how stars and the sun produce energy "you need to understand neutrinos," said physicist Richard Steinberg of Drexel University in Philadelphia, who studies neutrinos.

Scientists are still debating whether neutrinos have mass. Neutrinos are extremely abundant, so if they have even a little mass they could help explain the so-called missing mass problem, which is that scientists have found far less mass than the universe appears to contain.

"We've known that Fred was worthy (of the Nobel Prize) since the '60s," Dr. Steinberg said. "It was just a question of which year it would be."

Americans have dominated the Nobel science prizes since World War II. More than one-third of the physics and chemistry laureates have been from the United States.

The winners of each Nobel will share \$1 million this year. They will be honoured during a ceremony in Stockholm on Dec. 10, anniversary of the death of Alfred Nobel, the chemist who endowed the prizes with his fortune from inventing dynamite.

On Tuesday, American Robert E. Lucas Jr. of the University of Chicago won the Nobel Economics Prize. The Medicine winners Monday were Americans Edward Lewish and Eric Wieschaus, and German Christiane Nuesslein-Volhard.

Irish poet Seamus Heaney won the literature prize last week. The peace prize will be awarded Friday.

## Heavy fighting in Baqaa

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — Fierce fighting erupted in the Somali town of Baqaa Wednesday, with witnesses reporting heavy civilian casualties.

The fighting was between local clan members and militiamen loyal to warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed. At least 17 militiamen were reported killed and 28 wounded.

Earlier Osman Hassan Ali Ato, a rival of General Aideed, said that his forces had won control of the key airport of Ballidogle, between Baqaa and Mogadishu, from Gen. Aideed's forces.

The airport fighting left at least two gunmen dead and nine wounded," Mr. Ato said.

It was the first major battle reported between the two factions since Mr. Ato split with Gen. Aideed — accusing him of being a "warmonger" — as U.N. troops withdrew from this lawless Horn of Africa country last March.

The former air force airport, at Ballidogle, 90 kilometres southwest of Mogadishu, lies between the capital and the town of Baqaa, which Gen. Aideed captured on Sept. 17 at the head of a column of 600 men.

Witnesses said sporadic shooting was continuing in the area Wednesday and that Aideed militiamen were regrouping 20 kilometres south of the airport awaiting reinforcements.

## Iraq is braced for vote over Saddam

BAGHDAD (R) — School pupils chanted "Yes, yes to Saddam" and loudspeakers blared songs praising the Iraqi leader on Wednesday in preparation for an Oct. 15 presidential vote in which Saddam Hussein is the sole candidate.

Organisers say more than seven million Iraqis are eligible to vote either "Yes" or "No" but are certain President Saddam will be approved. Only the north of the country, an autonomous area outside Baghdad's control, will not take part.

The election furore is an important display of President Saddam's grip on power after the embarrassing Aug. 8 defections to Jordan of two sons-in-law, one of which ran Iraq's weapons industry.

The defections prompted speculation in the West that President Saddam's rule was collapsing. But predictions of his imminent fall proved unfounded and the Iraqi government clearly wants its numerous enemies to know this.

Iraq said more than 600 foreign reporters had arrived in Baghdad at the government's invitation and would be given free access to observe the referendum.

However, an official newspaper criticised the influx of reporters, saying Iraq did not need their words.

"Is Iraq in need of the testimonies of Western democracies?" the government newspaper Al Jumhouriya asked in a commentary.

"Jumhouriya accused 'some Western reporters' of what it described as 'pre-meditated and ready-made judgments."

State television and radio ran special programmes. Streets and public buildings in Baghdad are decorated with placards. Saddam pictures and signs reading "Yes, Saddam Hussein."

Tribal chiefs with kinsmen from the province of Nineveh were shown dancing on state television on Tuesday, some brandishing banners, swearing allegiance to President Saddam.

School buildings, used as polling centres, are festooned with ribbons and placards. State-radio and television run interviews with Iraqi intellectuals, politicians and journalists saying Iraq's future hinged on a unanimous "Yes" for President Saddam.

President Saddam has not addressed the nation since the ruling Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) unanimously renominated him for the presidency in September.

Iraqi sources said President Saddam will deliver an address to the National Assembly (parliament) shortly after his election in which he could announce new political guidelines for the nation.

The Oct. 15 vote comes after amendments to Iraq's interim constitution announced by the RCC a month ago that included a provision to elect the president through secret ballot.

## COLUMN 8

### 3 tenors announce first world tour

LONDON (R) — The three tenors — Luciano Pavarotti, Plácido Domingo and José Carreras — announced plans Wednesday to stage their first world tour.

Opera's biggest figures said they would come together before nearly 300,000 people in five concerts starting in mid-1996.

The three men have previously ruled out a joint tour, citing scheduling problems. Opera buffs have suggested clashing egos were the real snag.

The Italian and the two Spaniards will perform in Tokyo next June, London and New York in July, Munich in August and Melbourne, Australia, in March 1997.

Tickets are expected to sell out in days. "We are all delighted to be reunited together once more for this tour. We are greatly looking forward to performing in five very different cities," the trio said in a statement before a joint news conference.

Previous performances — a 1990 concert in Rome at the World Cup Soccer Finals and one in Los Angeles four years later — reaped millions in royalties and the live recording netted huge sales.

### Simpson to marry at Fiji resort — paper

SUVA (AFP) — Football legend O. J. Simpson is planning to marry at an exclusive island resort in Fiji, a newspaper reported here Wednesday.

Simpson, acquitted of double murder in Los Angeles last week, would marry his girlfriend Paula Barbieri at the Sheraton Vomo resort in the Nadi area soon, the Fiji Times reported.

Deonis McElrath, owner of the resort, could not be reached for comment on the report. A big wedding is to take place at the end of October, a hotel source told AFP, but refused to say who was to be married.

### Postman jailed for stealing birthday card cash

LONDON (AP) — A postman convicted of stealing money from children's birthday cards to support his heroin addiction was sentenced to nine months in prison. Steven Watson, 22, also stole a bundle of cards from his postal sorting office in Leeds, the prosecution said in Leeds Crown Court.

"One can understand the upset and the heartbreak that you caused by pinching £5 (\$8) and £10 (\$16) out of some boys' and girls' birthday cards," said Judge Trevor Kent-Jone. Mr. Watson pleaded guilty to four charges of theft including postal orders, vouchers and jewelry.

Prosecuting attorney Nadeem Basbir said mothers had complained of missing birthday cards. Mr. Watson was caught after postal officials placed three envelopes, each containing a heavy £1 coin, in Mr. Watson's sack, and only two were delivered.

### Liz Taylor undergoes surgery

NEW YORK (AP) — Elizabeth Taylor returned to the operating table to make her legs the same length, after hip-replacement surgery in the past two years had left her with a limp. The 63-year-old actress underwent surgery Monday at Los Angeles' Century City Hospital. The 70-minute operation went well, her surgeon said.

Aideed suffers another setback